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MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

AUGUST, 1878.

A WELL kept lawn, with a few beautiful trees and a belt or group or two of shrubbery on the borders, needs but little other adornment. A few beds of foliage plants or flowers, or vases, are like diamonds set in emerald, and the latter, especially, impart a graceful elegance which nothing else can give. They are infinitely superior to the most costly statuary, which is better suited to the hall than the garden, and quite out of place in such simple, unpretentious places as are most of the private gardens of this country.

Our people are the greatest tree destroyers, and tree planters in the world. The old pioneer settler considered every tree an enemy, an hindrance to progress and wealth, and armed with the ever present weapon of the borderer, the axe, the forest fell before his sturdy blows, and all unheeded was the poet's plaintive cry,

"Woodman, spare that tree,
Touch not a single bough."

Now we are planting trees by millions every year. Fruitful orchards cover the soil once occupied by the pine forests of Maine and the Evergreen Oaks of California, and the old wilderness blossoms like the rose. We have sat under the shade of orchard trees and listened to the Atlantic's roar at the northern extremity of our land, and gathered the ripened fruit, baptized with the spray of the Yosemite Falls, almost within sight of the Pacific. This is well, but unfortunately, the rage for planting is

doing a little evil, as well as a great deal of good. We dot our lawns all over with trees and shrubs, as though about to restore the original forests. The result is a mass of trees without order or taste. Plant for the future, a few fine trees, a group of shrubbery, and leave plenty of open lawn. On planting we have before given some suggestions, and will refer to this subject again in a future number. Our purpose now is to speak of vases and their treatment. Some who read this and remember the appearance of many vases during the heat of summer, will be disposed to think that they are difficult of management. Yet their treatment is very simple, though success and failure are both quite easy. "Why do plants grow so poorly in my vases? As soon as warm weather comes they begin to fade, and by the middle of summer are almost destroyed. What can I do to make them grow?" These and similar inquiries are so numerous that we purpose to treat the subject more fully than could be done in brief answers to inquiries.

Vases, unless very low, should contain some drooping plants that will, when grown, hang over the sides nearly to the ground. The graceful, round headed plants are generally best suited for vases, and much better than those that are stiff and conical, like the Yuccas, Century Plant and some of the Ferns, which are often used. These are only fit for low and broad vases. Many vases that are well planted,

and for a season in the spring appear promising, and give encouraging signs of future beauty, about mid-summer become very un-



NEGLECTED VASE.

sightly, and continue to grow worse and worse until they are really ugly, and are finally removed. This, my observation induces me to believe, is the fate of three-fourths of the vases that are purchased in the spring and planted with great care. There is one cause, and only one, for all this difficulty—a want of water. The plants are allowed to dry up, root and branch. They may get a sprinkling once in a week or so, but this is useless, at least so far as preserving the health or lives of the plants are concerned.

People do not seem to understand why, if their flowers do without watering, that vases cannot. Please to observe that only the upper



SAME VASE ONE YEAR LATER.

surface of the flower beds are exposed to sun and air, while at the bottom is the cool, moist sub-soil. Then there is a large body of earth,

and if the bed becomes drier than the surrounding earth, it soon absorbs moisture from the more moist earth around, like a sponge. In a vase you have but a few quarts of earth, while it is exposed to sun and drying winds on four sides, which soon takes every drop of moisture from the earth, and the plants famish. Place your hand on a vase at any time in a July day, and you will not wonder that your plants need plenty of watering. To remedy this defect, or rather to prevent the rapid evaporation of moisture from the earth, double vases have been devised, with a space between filled with water. Some line their vases with moss, but we have found this altogether unnecessary. We have but one rule, and never fail to have gorgeous vases. Our rule is to give the earth a thorough soaking every evening, and the leaves a good



VASE WELL CARED FOR.

showering from the rose of a watering-pot. We care nothing for heat or drouth, or for any patent contrivances.

As we designed to give our readers a few hints on this subject at some convenient time, we had an engraving made of one of our vases, which we now present, just to show how a respectful vase should appear, and the results of a regular and plentiful supply of water.

Not far from our residence is a little private park with perhaps fifteen or twenty residents. Their houses are tasteful, and the grounds kept in very good order. Indeed, they are rather proud of their grounds, their taste, etc., and would feel quite indignant if any one should suggest that they lacked anything in the way of skill, neatness, or pains taking. They have not yet, however, arrived at the point where it

would be safe to trust a Vase or a Hanging Basket to their tender mercies. One spring they procured two elegant, large Vases, had them well filled and placed at the entrance gate. We volunteered a little good advice about their care, in hopes that we should see them flourish during the season, but soon saw they were doomed to destruction. In August we had a drawing taken of one of them. It shows how a ruined Vase looks, and is a fair specimen of the majority of *ornamental* Vases at this season of the year. The next season these persons, having profited by suffering, gave their plants an abundant supply of water, as advised, and in September we had our artist make a drawing, which we present our readers. It certainly shows the good effects of proper treatment.

HOW FLOWERS HELP US ALL.

The Nurserymen, Florists and Seedsmen held a National Convention in Rochester, in June last, and at that time we had the pleasure of meeting those who are engaged in the pleasant work of providing the people with fruits and flowers, from the far East and the growing West; indeed from all sections of our country. We were invited to address the assembly, but thought our time would be better spent in providing for the pleasure of our guests. More than that, it seemed more polite, and certainly more in accordance with our feelings, to listen to our friends, rather than to talk to them. Among the addresses to which we listened was one from HUGH T. BROOKS, *How Flowers Help us All*. MR. BROOKS is always interesting, and we quote a few choice paragraphs:

"SCROGGS thinks the serpent, after making mischief with the fruit, turned to flowers, as his next "best holt," and has used them ever since to tempt our wives, sisters and daughters into useless waste of time and money. Mild mannered men think they are well enough in their way; more ornamental than useful; cost more than they come to; not as good as bank stock to get to heaven with. That would be the decision to-morrow, without bulldozing, bribery, or false returns. Allow the women to vote, disfranchising, perhaps, the "strong-minded," and the result might be different. Obviously, able-bodied Yankees care little, and know less, about flowers. How do we account for this?

Our puritanic education turned our thoughts in other directions; the pressing necessities of a new country, the mad rush after riches, all conspire to throw floral embellishments into the background—out of it, rather.

Never till we fathom the deep mysteries of spiritual and material growth, can we understand the full significance of flowers—the mission of bloom! Swine need only gross food. Offspring of Divinity, illumined by a ray of infinite intelligence, we require etherial nourishment. Why all this brilliancy and variety of color, the sweet harmonies of sound, if they are not to challenge our admiration, engage our thoughts, and minister to our necessities? We are spiritually fed by the grand, the beautiful, and the good in nature. Our souls are enlarged, strengthened and purified by ocean's vast expanse, the serene depths of the blue sky, the shifting drapery of the clouds, the matchless grace and beauty of the floral kingdom. Certainly the bread that nourishes our grosser parts is not more important than that which ministers to our higher faculties. The appetites, lower instincts and passions will control the man, unless his moral sentiments and intellectual perceptions are cultivated by the devout contemplation of God's wonderful works. The mission of flowers, like the angels, is pure. Beauty and grace have a refining and regenerating influence to help forward the great reformation.

Push forward the tree planting—make this loved land of ours one vast landscape garden. You have reason to be encouraged. Your public exhibitions and your private collections educate and stimulate the people.

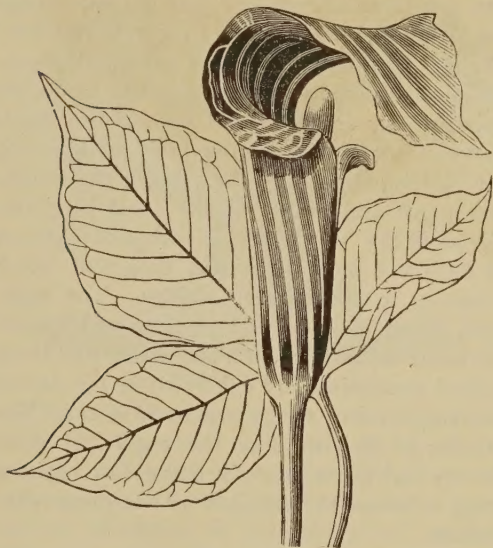
Landscape adornments may be overdone. You cannot put into a rod what was meant for a rood. The Duke of Athol, with his four hundred thousand acres, may indulge in varieties. You must not put into your sixty feet by eighty, trees, shrubs, flowering plants, vases, fountains, and a menagerie of wild animals. Quality is better than variety. You may grow a shrub, the pride and admiration of your neighborhood; you may have forty of the same genus that nobody cares to look at.

One thing I must not omit to say. For general cultivation, recommend hardy varieties. Hardy herbaceous flowering plants are very desirable, as being in a measure able to take care of themselves—that, I am sorry to say, they are often compelled to do. A *succession* may be secured. Roses cannot be extolled too highly; they are everywhere and always beautiful, and our florists deserve profound thanks for the improvements made in their form and color; particularly Hardy Perpetuals.

For myself, I stand firm by the plants of my boyhood. I never see a Pink, a Poppy or a Sweet William without thinking of my mother, and I thank God she is associated with such pleasant memories."

ARUMS AND ARUM-LIKE PLANTS.

Who of our readers are unacquainted with Jack? We do not mean the one with tarpaulin hat, pea-jacket, wide bottomed trousers, and slippers; but the one in the damp woods and thickets, a regular landlubber, albeit he generally manages to have his feet in the water—the



JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT.

“Jack-in-the-pulpit” that “preaches to-day” of Whittier’s fancy—the Wild Turnip or *Arum triphyllum*. To those familiar with this Jack it is scarcely necessary to say that the part forming the pupit and canopy is not the real flower, but a *spathe*, a wrapping or protecting covering for the numerous flowers situated on the enclosed, upright spadix at its base. The extremity of the spadix is surmounted by a hollow, club-shaped appendage, as seen in the engraving, projecting above the horizontal lines of the *pulpit*, and is playfully called *Jack*.



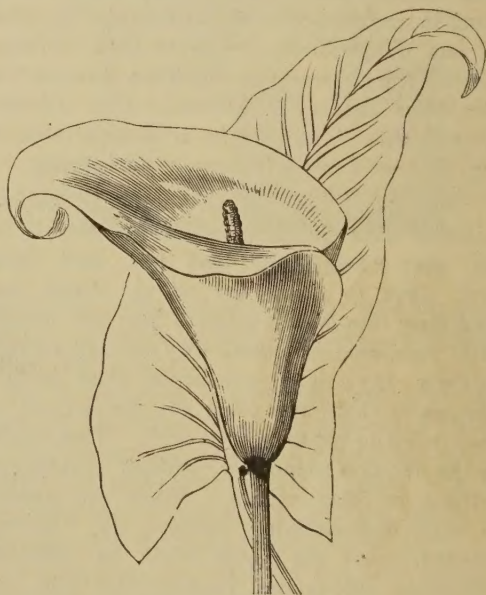
“JACK.”

All the Arum-like plants, or plants belonging to the Arum family, produce their flowers in a manner essentially similar to this one. The plants of many species of this order are cultivated either for their ornamental foliage or for their handsome floral bracts or spathes, or in tropical countries for culinary and other useful purposes. One of the most widely known and highly prized plants is the Egyptian Calla or Ethiopian Lily, known in the trade catalogues as *Calla Æthiopica*, but the proper botanical name of which is *Richardia Africana*. This plant is prized for its large pure white spathe and prominent yellow spadix, and its

handsome sagittate leaves, which are borne on strong and tall foot-stalks.

Another well known ornamental plant, unfortunately too going about with a wrong name, is what is called *Caladium esculentum*, but the proper name of which is *Colocasia antiquorum*, of which there is a variety known as *esculenta*. One of its common names is *Elephant’s ear*; it is highly prized for its handsome, large foliage, and in tropical countries is cultivated for its edible root-stocks. Another species of *Colocasia*, *C. himalaiensis*, and another Arum-like plant, *Arisema utile*, form a large part of the support of the inhabitants of the Indian mountains. The root-stock or corms of *Colocasia macrorrhiza* are also eaten in the Pacific Island where it is called Taro. In Mexico the *Torrelia fragrans* is cultivated for its fleshy spadix, bearing fragrant and pleasant fruits which are always for sale in their markets. Cariabe Cabbage is the name given to the shoots of *Xanthosoma sagittifolium*, a valuable vegetable in the Antilles. In Lapland and Finland the root-stocks of *Arum maculatum* and of *Calla palustris* are used as food. Arum starch is sold in the trade under the name of Portland Arrowroot.

A few only of the useful, Arum-like plants have now been noticed, but enough of them to



RICHARDIA AFRICANA.

show the importance of this extensive family. The beautiful spotted *Caladiums* that ornament our conservatories are mostly natives of tropical America and the islands of the tropics. There are many species of them and hybrid varieties, and they are cultivated entirely for the beauty

of their foliage. Another representative of this family, familiar to many of our rural readers, is the Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, the disagreeable odor of which in the season of flowering is indicated both by its common and its scientific name.

Early in the winter we received from one of our correspondents a couple of bulbs of an



COLOCASIA ESCULENTA.

Arum that was said to produce a handsome and curious plant. We do not now know who was the donor, but whoever it may have been, he will now please accept our thanks for the kindness. One of the bulbs placed in a seven-inch pot of earth, after a time began to push up a leaf which, when unrolled, proved quite a curiosity on account of its singular form; not less noticeable, too, was its brown spotted stem, resembling in this respect the skin of some snake. Through the sheathing base of the petiole soon pushed another leaf, larger and, when fully developed, standing several inches higher than the first one; through the base of the second leaf came another still larger, and mounting higher. When in this manner



CALADIUM LEAVES.

six large leaves had expanded a very strong bud was noticed pushing through the sheath of the last leaf, evidently the flower bud; this increased in size until it appeared huge.

The plant in its perfection stood three and a half feet in height.

The engraving seen in the next column gives a

very fair representation of its general form and aspect. The spathe remained closed several days after it had apparently acquired its full development; one morning it lay unrolled, bearing within it the long pointed appendage of the spadix, of a very dark purple or maroon color, and as smooth and shining as silk. The

interior of the spathe is of a maroon purple color, with a surface, not smooth, but like that of velvet plush; the exterior surface is smooth, and of a light green. The length of the spathe was seventeen inches, and its base stood two feet from the surface of the ground.

When the spathe unrolled there was no odor from it perceived at first, but soon a trace of it was detected by those nearest to it in the room, and it gradually became so strong that it was necessary to open the doors and windows, and finally so repulsive that it could no longer be endured and the plant was summarily ejected. After this it was placed in the upper loft of a store-room, and after forty eight hours there was no longer any smell. The spathe remained open in perfect condition about four days longer and then began to wither. While the plant was emitting its offensive odor it had a great attraction for flies, which gathered around it in considerable numbers, as if it were decaying animal matter. With the exception of the disagreeable feature mentioned this plant possesses fine qualities; its mode of growth, its stately form and its singular inflorescence, remarkable in size and rich in color, command our admira-



THE DRACUNCULUS.

tion, but its one fatal fault must ever debar it from the society of its more agreeable kindred, and remand it to its place in the wild-garden, where it may "waste its fragrance on the desert air."

This plant is a native of Europe, and will live in the open ground in most parts of this

country. The illustration of the leaf shows its peculiar form, which is palmately-pedately-parted; the number of leaflets is variable,—from eleven to seventeen. The middle leaf-



LEAF OF
DRACUNCULUS.

let is oblong, approaching oblanceolate, while the others are lanceolate. The surface of the leaves is smooth and shining above and beneath, and having a thin bloom on the upper surface. The spadix is only about an inch and a half in length, while the hollow appendage is fourteen inches long. The pistillate flowers occupy the lower part of the spadix and about two-thirds of the whole, and the staminate flowers the upper part. The fruit is of a beautiful red color. The plant is easily propagated by its seed, and by the bulbs. The specific name of this plant, *Dracunculus*, *little serpent* or *dragon*, it has received on account of the appearance of the spotted sheathes of the leaves. The French call it *serpentine*.

Another introduced and hardy species is the *Arum Italicum*, with sagittate leaves growing about two feet in height. The principle veins are blotched with yellow, giving the leaves a marbled appearance that is quite attractive. The *Arums* are partial to more or less shade.

WINTER FLOWERING PLANTS.

In our last number (in a brief answer to a correspondent) we promised to give fuller information in our next on the subject of this article. The great desideratum in window plants is that they give us either flowers or foliage through the dreary winter months. This can be arrived at only by careful attention to a few necessary details. First of all, plants in proper condition must be obtained. We must not expect those that have given us of their bounty all summer to continue the same all winter. A season of rest is absolutely necessary to almost all plants. Preparation for winter should begin as early as June. Even earlier than this, seed of Chinese Primrose and *Cineraria* should be sown. Plants for winter flowering should be kept in pots all summer, or plants in a proper state must be procured from some florist in the early fall. All buds should be taken from plants designed for winter flowering, until about the middle of August; after that they may be allowed to grow

that we may have early winter flowers. The later the buds are pinched off in the summer, the later will the plants be in coming into flower in the winter. This is especially the case with Carnations, Chrysanthemums, *Bouvardias*, *Heliotropes*, and similar plants. Plants should be brought into the house and placed in their position before the winter fires are made, that they may become "wonted" to their indoor life.

Plants, as intimated, need a preparation for winter. Those that have flowered during the summer, and are therefore exhausted, are evidently unfit for the purpose, a strong, vigorous plant being required to bear the usual hardships of house culture. To illustrate this point we take for example the Carnation, because our correspondent asked information particularly of this plant. We will suppose that a young plant is obtained in the spring, and that it is planted in a good soil in the garden, or kept in a large sized pot, which is sunk in the earth to the top. By about mid-summer it will show a disposition to flower, when the flowering-stalk must be cut back to the bud below. The plant thus treated will throw out many branches, and become a strong, compact

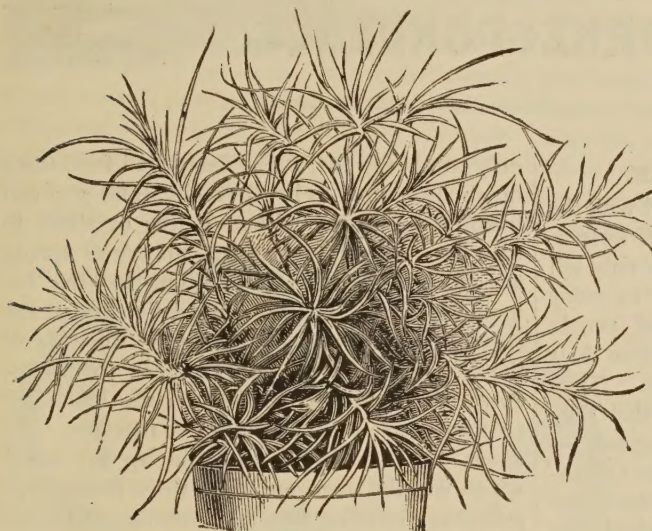


PLANT IN JULY.

plant, as shown in the first engraving. Later in the season, early in September in this latitude, it will appear something like our second engraving, shown on the following page, with a few buds beginning to form. The plant should now be re-potted, and placed in the house. A portion of the buds may be removed, though if many flowers are desired early in the winter, or if the plant is not over-crowded with buds, all should be allowed to remain. All plants newly re-potted should be placed in a cool, shady spot for a day or two.

It is surprising what a little forethought will do in securing plants for winter flowering, at a trifling cost. Those who can afford the outlay are very foolish to deprive themselves of a few Hyacinths, Narcissus and other desirable bulbs, as well as some of the choicer flowering plants; but those who cannot command the money nec-

essary, can be happy in the possession of winter flowers that will afford them plenty of pleasure, and perhaps excite the envy of more wealthy and less careful neighbors. A pot of Mignonette and another of Sweet Alyssum cost nothing, and yet few things will be found more pleasant and attractive in the winter season. Plants that



PLANT AS IT APPEARS IN SEPTEMBER.

appear unimportant, almost insignificant, and entirely eclipsed by more ambitious rivals when the garden is ablaze with its summer glory, sometimes prove to be very queens of beauty when transferred to the sitting room, or the bay window.

The Balsam is a very desirable plant for winter blooming, particularly the white, and towards autumn we often select cuttings from a few of the finest plants in the garden, and root them in pots for winter flowers. The Stocks are equally good. The Cobœa scandens, and nearly all the climbers, make excellent winter bloomers. We mention these things because they are so easily grown, and yet every way desirable. To grow plants for winter flowering, seed can be sown about July or August, in a shady, cool place in the garden, or in boxes, the soil being kept well watered, and by autumn the plants will be just right to transfer to the house. Of course, as the plants get large enough to transplant, they must be put in pots in which they are to flower. Mignonette and Sweet Alyssum may be sown as late as September. Put from three to six plants in a pot. The Madeira Vine tubers may be kept out of the ground until the latter part of June, and if then planted in pots will be in just proper condition to transfer to the house, and will prove no mean ornament to the Window Garden. The Tuberose should be treated in just the same manner, and will flower in the early winter.

It almost always happens that in a bed of Annuals a few plants, from some cause, do not mature as early as others, give but few flowers and these late in the season, and therefore about the time frost is expected are vigorous plants that have hardly arrived at maturity. Many of these will make excellent plants for winter flowering, if taken up with care and placed in pots of good soil. After potting give a thorough soaking, and place the plants in the shade for a few days, until they have recovered from the injury to the roots. Any straggling branches, and anything that gives the plant an untidy appearance should be removed.

One of our correspondents wishes us particularly to recommend for this purpose the Ten-weeks Stock and the Petunia, which afforded great pleasure last season, while another thinks nothing equals the Pansy, if thrifty plants are potted in October or November, and to this we will assent if this flower is not kept too hot and dry. The

Pansy will flower elegantly in the house from autumn until spring, but requires a cool temperature, and plenty of light, air and water.

The Bleeding Heart, when potted, is hardly surpassed by any of our house flowers, while everybody, of course, knows all about the Geraniums, and how easily young garden plants may be taken up, their branches shortened in, and thus make most excellent winter plants. The *Tritoma uvaria* is seldom used for winter flowering, and yet if kept in a cool room, barely free from frost and given a liberal supply of water, it will furnish its showy flowers freely, while the foliage is especially pleasant in the winter season.

A friend writes that she has taken up Balsams several seasons, but they do not succeed well. The Balsam generally flowers so freely that in the autumn it is weakened and worn out, and an opportunity to get good plants from the garden seldom occurs. The better plan is to sow a few seeds in boxes towards autumn, pot them off when about two inches in height, and before frost they will make good, stocky plants. These, and in fact all seeds sown late in the season, require partial shade and plenty of moisture. Or, raise young plants from cuttings of the side branches of old plants. They will root quite readily, and in this way any desired color or form can be preserved. We shall continue to give suggestions on this subject as the season advances.



ENJOYING THE LITTLE.

MR. EDITOR:—I am much pleased with the good advice, as well as with the good instruction you give the people. You not only tell them how to grow flowers, but how to enjoy them and be happy. Thousands of people grow flowers and derive no happiness from their culture, and often a good deal of pain. They grow flowers for the same reasons that they build costly houses and dress extravagantly,—to excel their neighbors, for display and ostentation. When this is the motive, of course the newest and most costly things must be had, and if something can be obtained that no one else possesses, why, their cup of pleasure is about full, no matter how much or how little beauty this new plant may possess. This is not really all bad, because but for such ambition the florist would have no encouragement to introduce new things, and would find less purchasers of rare and costly seeds and plants. There are few things in this world that are all evil.

What I am delighted with is the pleasant and convincing way in which you show the people that happiness can be secured by all,—that beauty is cheap, and that there is as much of happiness to be derived from a bed of Petunias, for instance, the seed of which can be procured for ten cents, as from a show of costly exotics. You would not be far out of the way, to say there is just as much beauty in one as in the other, for Nature's works, and especially her floral work, is all beautiful. I do not believe there is a more beautiful floral display in all the world to-day than I can show in a bed of simple old-fashioned flowers—the good old Holy-hocks. I was glad to see that you gave an honorable position to this flower in the June number—one which it richly merits.

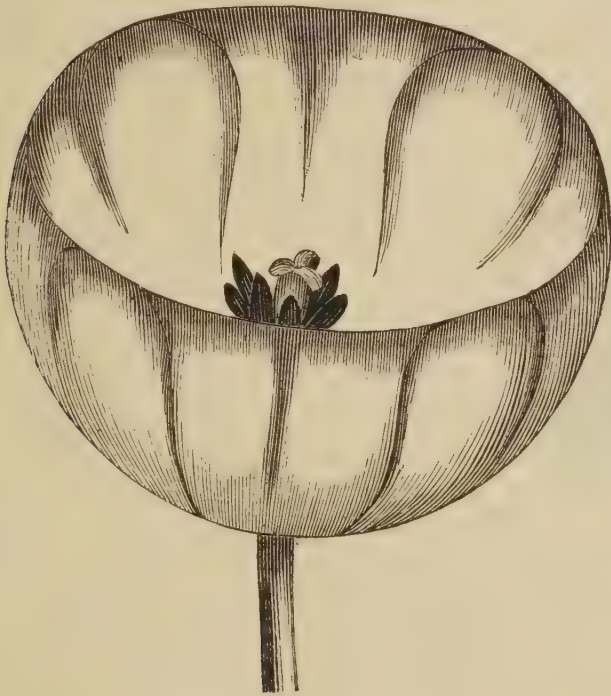
Let me give your readers a little story, just to show how much pleasure can be derived from growing a common plant well. I have grown a great many choice and new things, yet never cultivated any one that I think afforded me so much pleasure as I once derived from growing a Tomato plant. One year, and the

only one in my life, I was compelled from force of circumstances to live in a city, and you can imagine how I felt without a tree or shrub to care for. Beginning to feel uneasy as spring advanced, I obtained three strong looking Tomato plants, and making a good rich bed at the side of the pathway leading along the side of the house (there was only eighteen inches between the walk and the side of the house,) I set those three plants pretty close together. In about two weeks I had made up my mind which was the strongest of the three plants, and pulled up the other two. I determined to make the most I could of this plant, in fact, to test its possibilities. It was given the soap-suds from the house, manure water, and rain water when I thought it needed it. As the side shoots began to form all that were not needed were removed, and the others trained to the side of the house in something like fan form. The result was wonderful. It reached the eaves, which were eighteen feet from the ground, and covered a space eighteen feet by twenty-four. I counted more than five hundred ripe tomatoes at one time. It was a beautiful plant, and I do not know that I ever owned one that attracted more attention. People thought it a new kind of Tomato, and I had an opportunity to give away lots for seed. One gentleman offered me twenty-five cents each for half a dozen, with this mistaken idea. If I could get pleasure out of a Tomato plant, who is there so poor or so unfavorably circumstanced as not to be able to get pleasure from the culture of flowers?—A PROFESSIONAL FLORIST.

ROSE INSECTS.—Several of your subscribers have recently enquired for the best means of destroying insects on Roses and other flowers. I have tried everything, but for the greenhouse, as well as the garden, I have found nothing to equal Phosphorus Soap. A tablespoonful dissolved in a gallon of water, applied with a watering pot or syringe, will completely clear the plants of insects. I have also found it a valuable fertilizer for flowers.—HORTUS.

TULIPS.

MR. EDITOR :—I have always been taught that a flower was to be judged by certain rules, and that by these rules its quality was to be decided, and that all judges must be guided by points. The Pansy, for instance, must be round, of good substance, and the eye even must be up to certain requirements. The standard of excellence in the Tulip was a half cup, perfectly smooth on the edges, with other minor points, which I will not mention. Now, however, Tulips are called good, I believe, that are somewhat pretty, no matter what the form may be. Have we no standard in this country, no rules by which a flower is to be judged? Have



MODEL TULIP.

judges nothing to guide them in making up their decisions and awarding premiums. With all the boasted improvements in flowers, I think I saw and grew better Tulips thirty years ago than I see now.—ENGLISH GARDENER.

The old, formal, arbitrary rules are pretty much abandoned all the world over. In old times we had far too stringent rules and too many of them; perhaps not quite enough now, but the latter evil is the better of the two. We publish an engraving of a perfect Tulip, according to the old published rules, and we have seen specimens that were almost or quite perfect. Of course, only the Late Tulips could attain this form, and these, we think, are the only kind exhibited. In old times we saw judges place a ring over Pansy flowers to ascertain if they were perfectly round. Perhaps this is all well enough, but if the flowers please us and make us happy, why should we care whether they conform to rules which men have made, or not. Indeed, we have sometimes thought beauty, grace and sweetness were sometimes sacrificed to arbitrary and senseless rules.

"A WORD OF CAUTION."

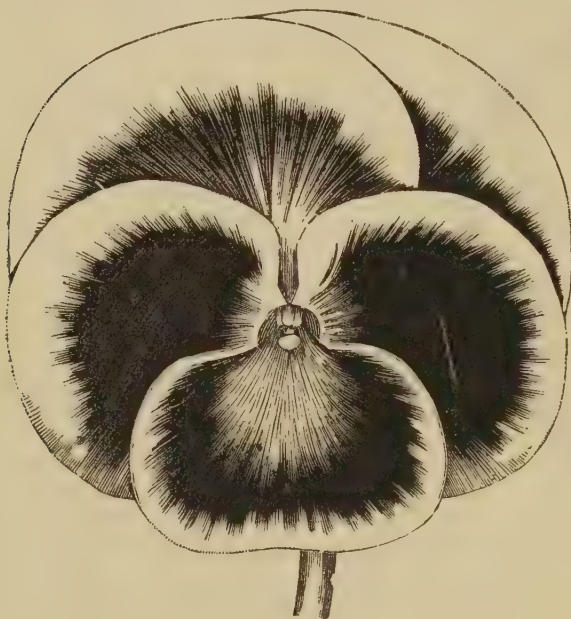
Ah, yes, Mr. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, your words of warning to husbands are all very well, and will, no doubt be appreciated, but it now and then happens that sound gentlemen, even, think Mr. VICK has done very much to foster and encourage a love for the most beautiful things in nature, and they cannot help liking him, too. We find that in caring for the beautiful flower plants, studying their habits, peculiarities and needs, we are really being insensibly fitted for a higher and wider sphere of usefulness, both in a public and domestic capacity. Let any one who doubts the statement, if perchance they are peevish and fretful under the cares and anxieties of life, try flower raising. There is no one pursuit so conducive to the development of what many of us so much need—patience. We might enlarge and include application, perseverance, hope, faith, and even modest, heaven-perfumed charity, for to us there is no incense so grateful as the exclamations of delight from a group of the ragged children of poor people, whose struggle for life often shuts out the attainment of the beautiful, over a single nosegay of Pansies, costing us comparatively nothing. We agree with the author of "*Norwood*," that the pleasure derived from giving away flowers to appreciative souls (not sordid beggars,) is even greater than the possession of them oneself.—C. W. T., *Mantua Station, Ohio*.

INFLUENCE OF FLOWERS.

MR. VICK :—In case you have to spare some place in your always welcome MAGAZINE, then please to tell my best and sincere thanks to the author of "Influence of Flowers," signed by D. V. D., San Francisco, Cal., and printed in the June number of your Magazine, page 169. Said little article is something of the best ever thought, said, written or printed. Such words and thoughts ought to be known to every one, like the LORD'S Prayer, it ought to be in every Second and Third Reader of our public school books. The ideas and remarks about "solitude" reminds me of some lines chiseled in granite stone in a 4000 year old building, in Egypt, reading, "Your blessings, O, Solitude, only pure hearts can endure." Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural papers ought to be read and taught in every family and school. Many hours are now occupied in reading useless things.—C. G. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

PANSIES.

Many persons seem to forget that Pansies are *imperfect* perennials, and expect them to go on blooming, year after year, like a Pæony or a Blue Flag. It is true they will live for several years, but they will not give large, fine blossoms after the plants become old. The seed must be from selected plants and kept pure, or the flowers soon "run out," as the common saying is,—that is, they become small and common looking. So whatever else you save yourself or get from your neighbors, never trust any Pansy seed but that from a reliable florist. A neighbor said to me last summer, "What large Pansies you have! Mine are all so small and common, they do not look in the least like



these." I asked her where she got her seed, and she said in the market, from a stranger. The idea! Buying Pansy seed in the market from an unknown person.

But everything does not depend upon the seed, for it is possible to grow very poor flowers from the best seed by bad treatment; but the best treatment will not produce fine flowers from poor seed. My plan with Pansies is this: I get fresh seed every year, just as I do for Annuals, and make several sowings—the first usually early in April, and the last some time in June. I use a cold-frame or seed-bed in a sheltered situation, and always near the house, so that the seedlings will be well looked after. This is very important, especially with the late plants, for they will need constant care, shading, watering, and protection from insect enemies, which are more numerous in June than earlier in the season. Shell-less snails or slugs are the most troublesome. These seed-beds are com-

posed of leaf-mould, loam and chip-dirt; and the permanent beds are of the same material.

Now as to shade,—some protection at mid-summer is needed, but it will not do to plant Pansies under trees, for then they will become spindling and refuse to bloom profusely. The north side of the house is the best place for them, and in July and August they may be shaded by green branches broken off and stuck in the beds, and mulching with fresh grass is beneficial. But water, plenty of water, is the principal thing in hot weather. Shower them copiously, night and morning, with rain-water that has been exposed for several hours to the atmosphere. At the present time (July 3d) I have about a hundred plants in the open ground besides two sowings in the seed-bed, and they are all doing well. Two small beds are filled with last years' plants that have been in bloom since April, and the blossoms are still large and fine. When they show signs of failing, they will be taken up and replaced by young plants from the seed-bed.

The young plants from seed sown this spring are just coming into bloom—that is, they would bloom if I would permit them to, but wherever a bud puts forth it is nipped off without the slightest compunction. This seeming cruelty is in reality the truest kindness, for the plant will gain in strength and power of endurance, and in September will give fine large flowers, whereas if permitted to bloom during the heated term the flowers would be small and the plants exhaust themselves and be unable to bear the severe and changeable winters—for it is to these young plants we must look for our supply of early spring blossoms.

As to winter treatment,—they require very little covering; if covered too closely they will rot. A light mulch of leaves, kept in place by a little light brush, is good. It is not worth while to try to keep over winter any but young plants, as old ones are apt to be killed, or so much injured as to be about worthless in the spring, and never produce good, large flowers like young plants.—E. A. M., *Green Tree, Pa.*

A large Pansy is very desirable, and when the petals are thick and firm, or as florists say, of substance, so as to keep the form of the flower perfect, without that wilted look which it has when the petals are thin and papery, we know of nothing better. But some plants that bear smaller flowers, present them in such wonderful masses as to hide almost every leaf, and cause exclamations of delight and wonder from every beholder. Pansy plants almost a perfect mass of flowers we have seen, and seldom anything finer. During the spring and early summer we received many specimens of Pansies from all parts of the country, ranging in size from two to three inches. Few persons, without thinking, will realize how large a three-inch flower is. We therefore give an engraving of one just two and a half inches.

DOVE ORCHID.

I send you with this line an interesting and very pretty flower, which I hope will reach you in fair condition. I thought as your artists are so successful in making pictures of flowers, you might be disposed to make a portrait of this,



if my style of packing should prove successful. It is an orchid, and grows upon the bark of trees, and is of the class sometimes called air-plants, because they have no root in the earth. I believe the true name is *Peristeria alata*; the Spanish call it *el Spirito Santo*, or Holy Spirit Flower, because of the singular form of the interior

column, which has the appearance of a dove, and the dove being the emblem of the Holy Spirit. I believe it is grown in Orchid houses, and even sometimes in green-houses in the United States. This country is exceedingly rich in Orchids, and abounds in rare, new and beautiful plants. If this reaches you in good condition, and is acceptable, you may hear again from a rambler in — SOUTH AMERICA.

FLOWERS IN FLORIDA.

I will only tell you of the flowers growing in my yard—a complete sand-bed, only fifty yards from the water's edge—and I trouble you with an account of my success because it may serve to reassure some of your patrons (please excuse that word; it seems almost an insult to use it with reference to one who gives so much more than he receives,) who may happen to own a place located as ours is, and are deterred from purchasing certain flowers, for fear of their want of adaptability to this sort of soil and climate. I don't know to which flowers I ought to give precedence in presenting them to you, but will begin with the most lovely and fragrant shrubs. Our cape Jasmines and double pink Oleanders are very large, and produce the loveliest flowers in great profusion. Syringa (wild), Deutzia, Yellow Jasmine (shrub), Sweet Myrtle, Crape Myrtle, Althea, Budlear, Lilac (old fashioned, Persian and Mexican,) Weigela, Mimosa, Popnae, Agave, Tanyah, Jatropha, Roses, Pinks, Verbenas, Petunias, Phlox, Ipomopsis, Pansies, Abutilons, Rose Geraniums, etc., etc., are all growing luxuriantly in the sand. We have one Camellia Japonica only; we victimized it for several years with inju-

dicious attentions and came near losing it, but that generous horticulturist, wise and good Mr. REDMOND, came to the rescue and kindly told us of its necessities, and it is now growing finely.

I find the only difficulty in my yard is the want of shade, but I hope that will soon be remedied, as we have Orange trees, Jujube, Lemon, and even Apple and Peach trees planted here and there. My bulbs all do well. I have white, purple, pink, starry, grape and feathery Hyacinths, Jonquil, Narcissus, Crocus, Daffodil, St. Joseph's Lily, Wax Lily, and "Spider" Lily,—the three last white and very fragrant. My Amaryllis is splendid. I have only the late growing Tuberose, but it does well when I give it proper attention; when I do not it blights terribly. Pampas and Ribbon Grass grow finely. Five or six years ago my husband bought for me ten dollars worth of flowers, principally green-house plants, and—laugh if you will—those flowers saved my life, for they gave me something to think of in my new home besides the gloomy prospects of my little darlings, for whom I had pictured so bright a future in the dear old days *ante bellum*.—HOPE, "*Lily Bank*," Fla.

PLANT FLOWERS.

There is no reasonable excuse for any one who possesses a home of his own, and neglects to make that home beautiful and attractive to his family, and nothing tends more to this end than a good selection of flowers planted out in the garden in summer, and kept in the sunny windows of the house in winter. Plants enough to make a fine show can now be purchased of our florists for a small outlay, and in our humble opinion nothing pays better for the outlay than this. What is finer than a bed of Coleus properly arrayed; or a plat of Verbenas, with their bright and radiant faces looking up at the passer by, and seeming to say, "Am I not beautiful?" "Don't you admire me?" Then, too, there is the showy Zonale Geranium, very easily propagated from the cuttings, and when well grown always gives satisfaction to the grower. We pity the person who has acres of land, but yet can find no room for flowers—who sees nothing beautiful about him except that which puts a dollar in his pocket, and who brings up his children in the same sordid manner. We believe it to be a christian duty to make our homes attractive, that our children may love them, and have no desire to leave them. And so we say plant flowers and beautiful shrubs about your home. You will find a little money laid out in this way, a paying investment.—A LOVER OF FLOWERS.

LILIES.

In writing the subjoined notes on Lilies I wish to assist all persons of good taste to select to advantage, and to avoid errors into which I fell. Lilies seem especially easy to acclimate, and those from the tropics and the more Southern regions are found soon to make themselves at home in more Northern and colder countries. For convenience we shall divide them into three sections. The UMBELLATUM, the LONGIFLORUM and the MARTAGON. Those varieties and subvarieties I shall mention are all perfectly hardy in the 44th parallel of North latitude, which will be that of most of the Northern States and Canada, and South of that degree they will grow well.

No. 1.—Umbellatum.

This variety has erect, Tulip-shaped blooms, and a strong, upright stem, or tree, with many



FORM OF UMBELLATUM FLOWER.

flowers. They are, in general, scentless, but when in blossom are both gorgeous and beautiful. They are in general very cheap, so, purchase the following:

1. *Croceum*. Fine orange, with minute dots of black, and black hairs at the base of the petals. Many flowered. Three to five feet high. July.

2. *Umbellatum grandiflorum*. Large flowers, of a deep reddish brown, with blotches of orange and shades of red on the petals. Many flowered. Four to five feet; perhaps the best of the family. Blooms last of June.

3. *Venustum*. Soft orange, beautifully blotched with shadings of reddish yellow. Two to three feet, very showy and rich; rather scattered, but a fine effect. July and August.

4. *Thunbergianum grandiflorum*. Deep blood purple, with black spots in the throat. Two to three feet high. Has a scattered appearance, but a fine effect. July and August.

Var. 2. *Atrosanguineum*. Dark red, with yellow shading and blotches. Same general appearance as the last, but is more compact. Very showy and handsome. Blooms July and August. There are many varieties in catalogues, more or less distinct or identical.

Var. 3. *Citrinum*. This is a dwarf, and a very fine bedder, sometimes called "Prince of Orange." Soft, clear yellow, with black spots in the throat; from six to fifteen inches high, and one to two or three blooms on a stem. It has a particularly merry, happy look in the bed, that is most encouraging. Produces offsets rapidly. Set about eight inches apart, and four to six deep. Blooms in July and August. Everybody should have the lovely Citrinum. I, for my own part, do not consider it a Thunbergianum at all.

5. *Philadelphicum Catesbei*, or *Kamschatkense*, is the common, upright Lily of this country. In the State of New York it is more common than in Canada. One variety grows in boggy land and the other along the sand banks of Lake Huron. The bulb is small, and the roots run to a prodigious length. One bloom or two, seldom three, on a stalk. In making a bed, use a large proportion of black muck, or peat from the swamps with clean sand; plant four to six inches deep, and water freely before bloom. I have a very nice bed of this sort collected from the swamps and lake shore. I wish every one to try this pretty little Lily, as it may be found by almost any sandy river side. Flowers deep crimson at the tip, and lighter at the insertion of the petal, which is nearly linear. I should wish every one to grow a few bulbs of of the above, as they are all hardy and excellent. There seems a determination in Holland to swindle on bulbs of the Lily family, and also in other places. I could mention queer facts, that would make amateurs stare. The way the swindle seems to be perpetrated is this. A lot of names are hung on the very same bulb, and different prices charged for different names. People who have imported on their own account can bear me witness that I am correct.

No. 2.—Trumpet-shaped.

This is a very pleasing order, as all the sorts mentioned are quite hardy, most charming in appearance, and fragrant. They generally bloom in July and August, and never lose their attractions till they are gone.

1. *Brownii*. A splendid sort from Japan, seven to nine inches long, deep chocolate pur-

ple outside and creamy inside, or white. One to three blooms on a stem, which is eighteen or twenty inches high. A slow producer of bulbets! Scarce and dear. It is the noblest of the trumpet Lilies, remaining long in bloom. The first time we bloomed *Brownii* we did not know what to say; we stood wondering and admiring for a long time, and inhaling its fragrance.



TRUMPET-SHAPED FLOWER — LONGIFLORUM.

2. *Longiflorum Japonicum* blooms in July, and is a fine dwarf bedder. Stem from ten to fifteen inches high, with one to three blooms from four to six inches long; very fragrant; pure white, with occasionally a greenish tinge outside. A rapid increaser; does best in a warm sandy bed which has been well manured. Plant four to six inches deep. The bulbets of three good roots will in two years be enough for a good sized bed, and no garden should want it. It is cheap, hardy and vigorous.

3. *Eximium*, *Takesima*, *Liu Kiu*, *Liu Kiu Præcox*, and *Jami Furi* are undoubtedly a fine large variety of *Longiflorum*, and identical. We can see no difference in them. They are about eighteen inches high; flowers from seven to nine inches long, purest white, and exquisitely scented. Gorgeous, fascinating, not expensive, and a free grower.

4. *Washingtonianum*. A somewhat new Lily of great promise from California. MR. VICK offers it for one dollar. We can say little about it as yet, but from the most reliable sources, it is likely to remain a standard sort. We had only one bloom last season, so our

experience is as nothing. I see, however, that in Haarlem a new variety, named "*purpureum*," is already in the market, from "*Eel River*," at a high price. It may not be a humbug.

5. *Candidum*. This is the old white or Annunciation Lily that came to America with the pilgrim fathers, and was as charming to them as it is to us to-day. It is a living proof of the appreciation of mankind for the chaste and beautiful, and this feeling lives from generation to generation, and is one of the most refining of instincts. There are few indeed who cannot admire these beautiful white flowers. I may be allowed to mention a circumstance that happened in my own garden not long ago. I was showing a merchant of good standing some magnificent *Gladiolus Gandavensis*, such as *Madame Dombain*, *Fanny Rouget*, and *Crystal Palace Gem*. Beside us was a fine bed of red *Zinnias*, and on our left the *Auratum* and *Lancifolium* Lilies were in full show. I was displaying them, and he seemed suddenly to stand still in rapture. Said he, "*Them's very fine things, no doubt, sir;*" and then pointing to some monstrous *Schweinfurth Cabbages*, "*but I like them Cabbages best. Give me one.*"



TRUMPET-SHAPED—LIKE CANDIDUM AND WASHINGTONIANUM.

The *Lilium Candidum* is undoubtedly one of our best Lilies,—fragrant, tall and bold, and of the purest white. It will stand a great deal of bad culture, but with care soon forms a fine, showy clump. I have a bed sixteen feet by eighteen planted with eighty bulbs, and during the season of bloom it is a most glorious sight. No Lily looks better in a bed. All persons of good taste, who have time, and means, and a garden, should have such a bed, as it costs but little. A very fine variety, with vari-

egated or striped foliage, is well worthy of growth, and at all times has a showy look, as if the plant were coming into flower. It should be in every collection.

No. 3.—Martagons.

The third class, or Turk's cap, has been divided into the true Turk's cap, and half drooping; but this seems untenable and I shall consider them one, and discard the Thompsonianum, which is a *Fritillaria*, not a Lily.

1. *Auratum Regina*, or *Imperial*, is the noblest of Lilies for graceful appearance, large blooms and delightful scent in the way of vanilla. It was first brought to America by MR. GORDON DEXTER, who gave it to MR. LEE, who in turn handed it to MR. PARKMAN. It was first bloomed in 1861 by MR. LEE, and exhibited in the Massachusetts Horticultural Exhibition by MR. PARKMAN in July, 1862. It was bloomed for the first time in England in 1862. It was considered too tender for the Canadas and New England States, but I have



FORM OF MARTAGON—HUMBOLDTII.

a bulb which has bloomed regularly for four years without removal, and others that I have raised from bulblets which have given fine trees with seven and eight blooms. I believe future years will see it as hardy and as common as the tiger or white Lily. It is now no rarity, as gentlemen and ladies of refinement grow it all over Canada and the States. The bulbs are of medium size. The flowers of the golden-banded Lily are of monstrous size, on comparatively slender stems or trees; they are from eight to ten inches across when expanded. The petals are snow-white, with a band of a golden color running down the center, and freely spotted on the sides with deep carmine red,—the edges and tip being again free and white. The anthers are deep chocolate red, and the extremity of the pistil has a long red knob. The

fragrance is powerful, and I have discovered it a quarter of a mile from the beds, on coming to which it was, to me, at least, disagreeably strong. The stem should always be supported by a stake; a thunder storm has in a short time destroyed many of my blooms and laid the trees prostrate; so be warned by my loss and sad experience. The prices of this sort are very reasonable, and it can be procured by all who wish. It does best if planted six to eight inches deep in a warm, sandy soil, that has been well manured and dug deeply. I shall give further advice when treating of the cultivation and propagation of Lilies. A new sort with a bright red band is advertised in Holland at eighteen dollars, and many other sub-varieties. I have decidedly a very early sort, obtained from MR. VICK, of Rochester, which bloomed on the 16th of July, and a second got from MR. ANT. ROOZEN & SON, of Overveen, near Haarlem, from which I had blooms as late as the 10th of October: or in other words, I had *Auratums* in bloom for nearly three months. No doubt the skill of the commercial florist will yet give us as many sub-varieties as we now have of the *Lancifolium*. I warn amateurs about the sub-genus of Lilies as advertised in Holland. For instance, in a catalogue before me, *L. Brownii* is offered for \$1.80, which is most reasonable for such a superb slow growing variety; but the next to it is *L. Brownii verum*, for \$9.00, or in other words, the amateur is modestly asked to pay \$7.20 extra for the same bulb with *verum* tacked to its name. Again, the *Chalcedonicum* is advertised at \$0.50 by the same person, and *Chalcedonicum major*, the identical same thing, is offered for \$0.75. This is a speculation, and a very indifferent arrangement for the amateur who has to pay, although very agreeable to the Dutch florist, no doubt, who sells both you and his wares at the same time.

2. *Lancifolium* or *Speciosum* is the Japan autumn blooming Lily, and can be had at a small cost.

Var. 1. *Lancifolium Album*. A fine sort, with pure white petals and a pea-green stripe. Very fragrant.

Var. 2. *L. Rubrum* and *Roseum* are the same, and any person with eyes can see them on the same stem and from the same root. There are many varieties advertised in the catalogues, of all sorts of tintings and shadings, from deep blood purple to a mere red trace. But they are all good, and a man can obtain them from twenty cents to \$8.00 each to the amount of his purse, or the extent of his fancy. Some have a red stripe, others dark dull green, but they are all good and all recommended.

Var. 4. *L. Punctatum Verum*. This is a late bloomer, very distinct, clear white with soft rose spots and green stripe. Frequently nipped by early frosts. It is truly a gem, and I like it the best of all I have.

Var. 5. *L. Monstrosum* or *Corymbiflorum*. You can get this in white and red shades. It produces a very large tree; I have had it with fifty and more blooms. All these sorts should be planted about eighteen inches or two feet apart, in a deeply dug and rich bed. They repay all labor. I have a dozen or more varieties and see little difference, even when looking at the tallies in the beds. Should be all staked. I have read of some amateurs who have raised over one hundred blooms on a tree.

The varieties mentioned I can thoroughly praise, as they are all old and proved. You cannot have too many *Lancifoliums* in your garden. In purchasing, I should recommend the cheap or young bulb to be procured for bedding. The first year it is not of much account, but the second it has thoroughly established itself and will then repay you; year after year it improves. The less frequently disturbed the better. All *Lancifoliums* are excellent for dinner bouquets, and their vanilla perfume is most excellent.

3. *Canadense*, or *Superbum*, is the common drooping Lily of our stream sides, and grows all over Canada and the States, and is of great geographical range. I was told by a missionary from the sources of the Saskatchewan that he saw acres of the same Lily as I have, growing there in the bottom lands, and that in places they had a heavy, sweet scent. Is it then to be wondered at that in a Lily of such range many shades and varieties are to be found in distantly separated stations. California produces two fine varieties of it, *Pardalinum* and *Humboldtii*, or *Bloomerianum*. We have not seen them as yet, but will, this season, if fortunate. In my own bed I have four shades gathered in this neighborhood, which under equal circumstances of culture could not now be distinguished in the least. One was a creamy white ground, the other three shades of orange with like spottings. In preparing the bed use plenty of peat mould, with lots of two year old dung—pig's is the best, cow's is excellent also. Dig it over carefully two or three times, and plant deep. Don't mind about the bulbs being small, they will look after themselves. A friend, not our merchant, however, was watching me planting this bed. I was putting them in trenches a foot apart and eight inches deep. He remarked, I was burying them for the day of judgment, and should never see them again, etc. I believe I did, for next season they came up boldly and bloomed

well. Last August they were glorious. European florists are making merry over this sort, and making themselves rich at the same time. They give it a score of names, and some names bring high prices.

4. *Tigrinum*. Common Tiger Lily. It requires only to be planted six or eight inches deep in a good soil, and will look after itself. It is an old friend. Don't forget to throw a spoonful or two of decayed manure over it each fall before the snow; you will find this Tiger a grateful friend.

Var. 2. The double Tiger Lily is the only double Lily I like. It lasts long in bloom, is as double almost as a Rose, and very hardy, but requires more care than the single sort. If done properly it is one of the most showy flowers in the garden, and has not the slovenly look of double *Martagons* and *Thunbergianums*: The *Lilium Candidum flore-pleno* is not worth a place except as a grotesque and ugly monstrosity, and I only tolerate the thing among the collection. I here make a note for private



MARTAGON, OR TURK'S CAP FORM—LANCIFOLIUM.

information. One of our enterprising Haarlemites lately sold this double sort for 12½ cents. He has discovered what has always existed in my sort. There is a dim silvery luster in some of the ugly petals, and our happy Dutchman having sagely noted this, makes out a new variety—*Lilium Candidum flore-pleno argentea variegata*, and modestly asks only "\$4.00." I don't intend to order it at present; do you?

5. *Chalcedonicum*, or *Scarlet Martagon*, like all of its variety, has not much scent. It is supposed to be "the Lily of the field" of the Gospel. It is a magnificent sort, and its intense scarlet is one of the finest shades in the whole vegetable kingdom. A full bed is a most dazzling sight, and if suddenly looked at on a bright day, has nearly the same effect for a moment as if looking at the sun. It is much scarcer than it should be, and requires careful culture, to be planted about six or eight inches deep, and watered in the summer time. It pleases every one who is capable of being pleased.



TURK'S CAP FORM OF FLOWER — MARTAGON SCARLET.

6. *Martagon*, or *Turk's Cap*, has large, whorled leaves, and a stem of numerous small flowers. The bulbs are impatient of removal, and should not be kept out of the bed. They are rather shy bloomers and require attention. There are four varieties that are excellent.

Var. 1. Yellow Martagon.

Var. 2. Purple Martagon.

Var. 3. Spotted Martagon.

Var. 4. White Martagon.

They are not dear. When blooming they burst quickly and remain about a fortnight in blow. There is also a double sort, but for my part I care little for these; however, it is entirely a matter of taste.

7. *Pomponicum* or *Pomponium* comes from Siberia, is particularly hardy, and the earliest of Lilies. It is very fragrant, blooms like the *Canadense*, is in shades of greenish orange to fine red, and very showy.

8. *Tenuifolium*. A gem of little gems, fine scarlet, gracefully recurved on a slender stem, about twelve inches high, with from one to four blooms. Scarce and rather dear. Grows well in sandy, richly prepared soil. Once seen, it is never forgotten. Slow producer and should be stalked. Leaves linear, whence the name.

9. *Excelsum*, or *Testaceum*, or *Isabellinum*, is a tall grower, fragrant, and rapid producer of bulblets. Stems from four to six feet, with few blooms in proportion to the height. Color, nankeen yellow, and is very fine in table bouquets and vases. I lately obtained a new Lily, "*Pendulifolium*, (*Altissimum*,") a "most mag-

nificent sort," from Haarlem, price \$1.80. I copy exactly from the catalogue before me. One bulb lived, and a miserable sample of a bulb. This I cultivated most carefully for three seasons. Last year it pushed up a fine, tall stem, and expectation was on tip toe. I had been away for two days, and on returning went to see my stranger. It was a very decent *Excelsum*. I turned it over to see it, to examine and note this "most magnificent sort," and its peculiarities. There was nothing at all; it was *Excelsum*. I found myself fooled, and moralized most emphatically on Dutchmen in general and Haarlemites in particular. N. B.—This "most magnificent sort" has not *disappeared* from the catalogues! I fully have proved, and therefore can well attest, to the hardiness and excellence of the varieties of Lilies I have recommended, and my friend VICK can stand to my side. There may be a few swindlers among American florists, no doubt there are, but as a body they are not, and take a higher stand than European florists for honesty in Lilies. — J. H. GARNER, M. D., *Lucknow, Ont.*

The above valuable contribution was furnished by a gentleman who has had much experience in importing and growing Lilies. It was written some time since, and we thought the present Lily season an opportune time to present it to our readers.

THE MINISTRY OF FLOWERS.—A Home Missionary writes: "I have given many plants to persons of some culture and limited means, to educate them to the belief that a few choice plants were within their reach, and should be cultivated for the children. Many poor people of my acquaintance, with but one room in the house, have learned to train an Ivy vine and grow a pot of blooming plants with quite a creditable degree of success; and you would be surprised to see their desire to get a few slips of *Coleus*, *Lantana*, *Heliotrope*, *Fuchsia*, and even *Roses* for winter blooming. We feel interested in your literary undertakings, and hope the same success will be meted out to you in this that you have so richly earned and enjoyed in other branches of business. No missionary to Foreign Fields has ever done more for the common cause of Humanity."—I. M. S., *Marion Center, Kan.*

CUCUMBERS.—From four hills of White Spine Cucumbers, the seed of which were sown in July last year, I grew three bushels of pickling Cucumbers. They were kept well watered, and were picked about half green.—MRS. EVANS.

CAULIFLOWER.—We had wonderful success with Winter Snow Ball Cauliflower. They were fit for use early in June.—MRS. J. B. K., *Huntington, Ind.*

CABBAGE INSECTS.

The Cabbage Louse is an insect enemy that appears to be hard to fight. His forces in reserve are tremendous, and increase in number and power as the season advances; but the damage he is capable of inflicting is very much greater when the plants are young and tender than after attaining size and firmness of texture. A young plantation of Cabbages can be ruined in a short time if neglected. My plan in the family garden is to look over the young plants in about ten days or a fortnight after setting, and holding the leaf in one hand and to rub it over with the fingers of the other with just sufficient force to destroy the lice and not injure the leaf. Some of the insects will fall to the ground, but by passing the hand roughly over the surface they will be destroyed. This operation is very effectual, but in the course of two weeks the reserves will be up, and with them, perhaps, not a few of the green worms, (*Pieris Rapæ*.) As the leaves are now larger and more of them, a more systematic attack has been planned, and I have found the use of an old tooth brush of invaluable service. I take each leaf in hand and examine it carefully, passing the brush over it, which dislodges insects, eggs and larvæ, and destroys most of them. In this careful examination the green-worm will usually be seen if he has attained much size, but many of the smaller ones will escape the observation of the keenest and most practiced eye, but the brush brings them out, they cannot escape it, and having them once on the ground they are easily destroyed. This mode of fighting these insects may appear laborious, but it is not so much really as it may seem to be, for an active person can easily attend to a thousand plants in a day. For the ordinary family garden an hour's work every ten days will keep you master of the situation. Perhaps others may suggest something better, but my best weapon is a well-used tooth-brush.

AMATEUR.

GOD'S SMILES.—Some one said that flowers were God's smiles. How many pleasant smiles we have. "Flowers," said another, "are the alphabet of Angels, when they write on hills and fields mysterious and sweet truths." My flowers are very precious, and teach me many beautiful lessons.—MRS. S. W. F., *Castile*.

POISON IVY.—I fear from your description of American Ivy and Poison Ivy that I have the latter, instead of *Ampelopsis Veitchii*.—FRIEND, *Port Hope, Ont.*

We think not. The *A. Veitchii* resembles the Poison Ivy a little in one respect. Will give illustrations in next number.

THE TULIPS.

I don't know of any flowers that afford me more pleasure than my Tulips, because they are so sure and so little trouble. At least, good results are sure to follow the labor taken. With many other things we labor and wait, and the result is not always certain, as few things can be in this world, especially when liable to be affected by the weather, insect enemies, &c. My Tulips flower in May, or early in June. A few weeks after this the leaves begin to turn brown, and I take up the bulbs, dry them a little, and store them away until October, when they are planted again. To occupy the Tulip ground, secure a few Petunia plants, or Portulaca, and sometimes Verbenas. In October these have done flowering, or nearly so, and the Tulip bed is made again. In this way I get two season's of flowers on the same bed in one season. I have but little garden ground, and thus make the most of a little.

SUBURBAN.

PROPAGATING THE AMARYLLIS.—MR. VICK :—Last spring I wrote you in regard to my Amaryllis Johnsonii. Since then I have had more experience. Now a word to your MAGAZINE readers, if you please. Last August, in removing the small bulbs from the side of the large one, for which purpose I always take the bulb in my hand, I chanced to break one of the small bulbs, just above the roots. My first impulse was to throw both away, but remembering what I had read of the scales of the Lily, I put both the root and the top of the bulb in earth. Both lived, the top forming two bulbs, which have just commenced to grow. The old bulb has bloomed twice since March, and thrown off three more bulbs, although the leaves have grown scarcely any. Thinking this may be a hint to some of your readers, I send it to you. We all enjoy your MAGAZINE very much.—C. M. G., *Fitchburg, Mass.*

FINE GLADIOLUS.—I have some fine Gladiolus this year. Some are more than five feet in height. On one spike the four top blossoms are double, or what I call double, for they have eleven petals and eight stamens. Can they be made to bloom so another year? I love to work among my flowers, and watch them grow. I observe something new every time I see them.—MRS. W. T. STANSBURY, *Mt. Pleasant, Mo.*

Bulbs saved from that plant will be likely to produce double flowers again.

TURNIPS.—I sowed White Turnips last year the middle of August, and secured a fine crop. Think they would have done just as well the first of September —YOUNG FARMER.



EVERLASTING OR PERENNIAL PEA.

The Everlasting Pea is so called, not because it is everlasting in the sense that the *Gomphrena* and *Helichrysum* are everlastings, because the flowers are dry and do not fade, but on account of its perennial character, and in contradistinction to the Sweet Pea, which is an annual. It has always been a favorite of ours because it is so hardy and seems to prosper best with the worst treatment. We have admired it hundreds of times, climbing over the walls and fences and porches of English cottages, and have a favorite wild corner of our own where it grows, among bushes and stones, monarch of all. A correspondent of the *London Garden* thus refers to this good old flower:—

“The genus *Lathyrus* contains many beautiful plants, as the Sweet Pea, or the Posey Pea, as it is called by cottagers in many parts of



England, bears evidence, and even the pretty little blue Tangier Pea must not be overlooked. *Lathyrus latifolius* is not a very happily named plant, but the specific name must only be taken in a comparative sense, as the leaves are not at all broad. It is an old inhabitant of our gardens, and perhaps one of the hardiest and most easily cultivated plants in existence. Thriving, as it does, almost anywhere, even in court-

yards, amongst flags and boulders, it may be made to ornament any dead, naked walls, for a few bits of it dibbled in among the stones under a wall will take care of themselves, as the long, leathery roots penetrate to a great depth. The white variety of Everlasting Pea has come into notice during the last few years. Different colored kinds would look well planted together so as to form one mass. Such plants are peculiarly well adapted for wild, rough, stony places, rambling and scrambling over bushes and stones. Codling, and tying, and training only spoil them. Other Everlasting Peas are *L. grandiflorus*, which is not so rampant in growth, but infinitely handsomer than *L. latifolius*; the stems are weaker, and the flowers twice the size. This I consider the handsomest of all. Another species, *L. rotundifolius*, is comparatively a lower-growing plant than any of the family, having some affinity to *L. latifolius*, but neater in habit, and excellent for stony banks. Another one, *L. pyrenaicus*, is the most rampant of the family, growing twenty feet in a single season, and bearing a prodigious quantity of blossoms of a yellowish tint, veined with purple. This is a charming kind for running over the trunks of dead trees and similar places.”

WATER CRESSSES.

Almost everybody likes Water Cresses, and in the neighborhood of large cities their growth and sale is quite an important matter. Wherever there is a stream of water, the Water Cresses can be grown simply by sowing the seed or by setting the plants. If the seed is sown it must be on the edges of the stream, or in the eddies, where the water is slow and shallow. If sown in rapid water the seeds will be carried down stream. If plants are set they should be planted in the mud where the water is only a few inches deep. SHIRLEY HIBBARD, of England, has written a little work of fifty pages, showing how Water Cresses may be grown in boxes, pots and pans, and from this we make the following extract with illustration.

"It is such an easy matter to grow the very finest Water Cresses, that a brief lesson will enable the reader, who at this moment, perhaps, knows nothing of the business, to make a good beginning and quickly discern the value of the amplifications that follow. Although any common flower pot of any size or shape will answer the purpose, and the commonest soil that will grow a fairly good Cabbage will serve to fill it, yet a better mode of procedure is to employ common red ware seed pans fifteen inches wide and four to nine inches deep. This size affords room for a good body of soil, which is needed for a quick growth of tender Cresses, and they are not too large to be moved about conveniently. If the pans are shallow (say four inches deep) lay over the hole or holes in the bottom some flat oyster shells, and then fill with rich



loam, such as would be used in the cultivation of Balsams and Fuchsias. A good compost may be made by mixing mellow loam with one-third its bulk of rotten hotbed manure, and a little rough grit, such as the sand sifted from sweepings of a gravel path, may be added. Press the soil rather firmly into the pans and pile it up into a convex surface like a pie, putting a little fine stuff on the top of it, and it is ready for planting. But if deep pans are employed (say nine inches deep) put in a bottom of flat oyster shells as before, then some lumps of broken brick, or chalk, or old mortar, to a depth of three inches, and fill up with rich soil and finish off pie fashion, making the work look neat.

In this case, and in every case, small cuttings taken from the tops of fresh Cresses are to be preferred, and they should average an inch in length or less. Dib them in with a bit of stick or the finger, press them firm, and let them stand evenly from the centre to the edge about three inches apart. Then place the pans in water pans of suitable size, into which pour an inch depth of water, and stow all away in a

frame or under the stage of a green-house, and water overhead twice a day at least, and oftener if convenient. If not distressed by sunshine or wind they will be well rooted in the course of three days, and then the question will arise, What shall we do with them?

Supposing we are in the month of May, they may be put out of doors in the full sun and have a depth of two inches of water, or, if the pans are deep, three or four inches, and they will really want no more attention, but it will always pay to water them overhead once a day, for quick growing produces the best sample."

WATERER'S RHODODENDRONS.

Everybody remembers the grand display of Rhododendrons made by JOHN WATERER, on our Centennial Grounds. Nothing like it was before seen in America, or since. In this section the Rhododendrons do not prosper, being entirely unsuited to our limestone soils. By making beds of suitable soil we can enjoy partial success. The following is the description of their last grand London Show, which we take from the *Garden*:

"This, which is being held this year in Cadogan Square, Sloane Street, Chelsea, was opened to the public on Wednesday last, and a better display has probably never before been seen in London; the plants, consisting of many thousands, are arranged better than usual, and amongst them are some wonderfully fine specimens. The centre of the tent is occupied by standards, which contribute in no small degree to the effect of the exhibition, and the surrounding beds are so arranged that every variety can be seen to advantage. Amongst the most conspicuous new kinds was especially noticeable one named Countess Cadogan, a variety which has large conical trusses of lively crimson-scarlet blossoms; Princess of Wales, also an excellent kind, has white flowers bordered with deep rose. A variety named Kate Waterer is considered to be one of the best seedling Rhododendrons ever raised at Bagshot; it is vigorous in growth, and bears unusually large trusses of waxy rosy-pink flowers, one of the upper petals of which is delicately marked with yellow. Sir Robert Peel is conspicuous on account of its bright magenta blossoms, and a kind named Princess Mary of Cambridge has white flowers, delicately tinted with rose, in large, pyramidal trusses. Mr. Herbert, of Mucross, is a valuable addition to the crimson-flowered kinds, the color being remarkably bright, and the petals interestingly imbricated. Other good sorts are Mr. Charles Leaf, John Waterer, a well known variety, and the vivid

crimson Duchess of Bedford. A kind named Lady Olivia Guinness must not be omitted, for it is one of the most distinct of new Rhododendrons; the standard plants of it bear beautiful white blossoms, delicately spotted with rich crimson. Fred Waterer is considered to be one of the best self-colored kinds in cultivation, its flowers being of the brightest crimson. Many other valuable new, as well as old varieties, are also shown, and there are hundreds more to come into bloom."

THE CALOCHORTUS.

The Calochortus is a very beautiful flower, nothing much prettier as we saw it growing in California, where it is known as the Mariposa Tulip, but we cannot succeed with it in this country, and we have tried many times. We have a few plants, but they grow less and less, and have never been able to recommend it to our readers. We copy a portion of an article



on this plant from the *Album von Eeden*, of Holland, and would merely remark that if the Calochortus would prosper in that country the thrifty Hollanders would have found it out long before this.

"About the year 1831 and 1833 some kinds of the magnificent genus *Calochortus* were imported into Europe from California by DOUGLAS. Yet these splendid bulbous plants had, until lately, almost entirely disappeared from the European gardens. During the last few years, however, they have again successfully been re-introduced from California; where they are found in large numbers in hot and dry situations in very stony soil, growing in the valleys as well as on the mountain sides. The complaint that *Calochorti* are difficult to grow is pretty general. But the good results acquired by various growers, whether these bulbs are planted in pits or frames, in pots, or in the open ground, has convinced many persons that this opinion is unfounded. They are generally planted in the Cape pit from October to December as soon as they show signs of growth, in very light soil, mixed with broken crocks, and,

if necessary, with old, thoroughly decomposed cow dung, taking particular care to make the soil deep with a good drainage. The trial of growing in the open ground seems still to be done in Holland. Mr. THOMAS S. WARE, one of the first authorities on this subject, asserts with certainty that they can be successfully grown in the open air as well as in pots.

A CORDUROY ROAD.

Accompanying an illustration of a log road made through a New Zealand forest, we find in the *N. Z. Illustrated Press* the following description of a Corduroy road, formed of the trunks of Tree Ferns:

"The corduroy roads are usually carried through wild and wooded districts, where the materials for their construction are at hand. These are the straight stems or trunks of trees, which are split, when necessary, so as to reduce them to the dimensions required; and so prepared and cut into the necessary lengths, they are laid closely side by side across the road. No stems or trunks of trees employed are so advantageous for the purpose as those of the tree ferns; for not only are they generally of nearly corresponding and suitable diameters, but the rough and fibrous surface of the stems affords a more secure footing for foot travelers and for horses than does the more smooth and slippery bark of many other forest trees. The positions of these roads, carried tortuously through uncultured and diversified scenery, render them rich in prospects of romantic and picturesque beauty. Our illustration is taken from one of these primitive roads midway in the forest through which it passes."

PÆONIA MOUTAN.

The Moutan Pæony is a native of Northern China, and on account of its beauty it was taken in hand, and cultivated and improved in China and Japan with so much success as to obtain for it the name of King of Flowers. It is indeed a stately plant in the open air in this country when planted in sheltered situations, or sheltered by means of fir boughs from the chilling spring winds. In gardens in the colder midland, and Northern districts, the Mouton Pæonies are best grown in pots, plunged out of doors under a North wall during summer, and protected in a cold-frame in winter, from whence it is not well to bring them until the buds are well up, as they will not stand anything like heat till the buds are thus far advanced. We should be glad to see greater prominence and attention given to the Moutan Pæonies in our gardens than they have received of late.—*English Floral Magazine*.



CHARITY BEARETH ALL THINGS.

At the Nurserymen's convention, recently held in this city, many good things were said, and some things not so good—not even better than we might expect to hear during a session of Congress. Several gentlemen were pretty severe on the Railroads, because they charged too high for freight, and did not always forward trees and plants with sufficient dispatch, considering their perishable nature. We had just begun to feel a becoming indignation against all Railroads and railroad men, when Mr. H. E. HOOKER came to the rescue, and made everybody believe the railroad managers were the most accommodating and conscientious people in the world, and were doing all in their power to advance the interests of tree sellers and tree planters. Very many bad things were also said about tree dealers, or tree peddlers, and we had just about laid out the ground-work for a very severe article on this class of peripatetic tree merchants, when the same gentleman took the floor, and, no doubt, convinced every one that while there were some dishonest persons among this class, as there are among all professions and trades, the majority were honorable, useful men, pioneers in the work of tree planting, laboriously engaged in introducing trees into places that would not be reached in a quarter of a century in the old-fashioned and ordinary way of trade. This was heartily seconded by our friend, THOMAS MEEHAN, of Philadelphia, although he had never sent out one traveling agent. Mr. HOOKER is very kindly disposed, and will not allow a word of unmerited censure to pass unrebuked. In the meeting referred to we were reminded of the good old lady who rebuked her sons for speaking ill of an absent person, and volunteered a word of praise for the censured party, at which one of the boys expressed the opinion that if they were to blame the devil, Mother would say a good word for him. To test this a tirade was commenced against his Satanic Majesty, when she stopped the conversation by saying, "Boys! Boys! I wish you had his industry and perseverance."

GLAZED FLOWER POTS.

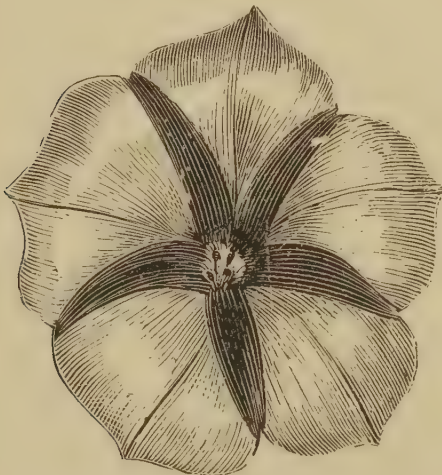
JAMES VICK :—Will you, in the next number of your pleasant and instructive MAGAZINE, give your readers some information on the subject of glazed flower pots? It is laid down as a rule without exceptions, in all gardening books, that no plant will live in them, and that they can only be used as screens to conceal the common red earthen ware pots. Yet it is an undoubted fact that the Chinese grow healthy plants in pots glazed on the outside, (not on the inside,) and drained through a hole in the bottom. Moreover, we constantly see in ornamental grounds vases of white marble, and even of painted zinc and iron, in which flowers and trailing vines seem to flourish by the help of abundant watering. Yet there can be no evaporation from the sides of such vases, and it is the absence of this which is urged as an inseparable objection to glazed pots. It has occurred to me that plants, the roots of which require much moisture, such as Callas, or, perhaps, even Hydrangeas, might succeed in such pots. A friend of mine has some very beautiful ones sent her from China, but owing to their shape, which is low in proportion to their width, they will not conceal any common flower pot of the ordinary form large enough to hold a plant at all suitable in point of size. Hoping to find in your August number some hints which will enable her to utilize her pretty earthen ware, I remain a pleased and—CONSTANT READER, *Winchester, Mass.*

Glazed pots for plants are condemned by most writers. The majority of these writers are green-house men, or those with but little experience with growing plants in the dry air of our parlors and living rooms. In a green-house the air contains much more moisture than our living rooms, and in watering, those in glazed pots would naturally receive the same supply as others in common porous pots along side. The evaporation from the porous pots would take place much more rapidly than from the glazed, and the one would be comparatively dry, while the other would be still wet. The next watering repeats this process, and the result is quickly seen. The plant in the glazed pot perishes at once, or drags out a sickly, miserable existence. Glazed pots can be used with good results in the parlor or living room. If the drainage is good so the surplus water can pass off, there are many plants that will grow well in them. Palms, Ferns, many of the ornamental-foliaged plants will succeed well. With care in watering, the Chinese pots can be made useful as well as ornamental.

FINE PETUNIAS.

As you are considered headquarters in the flower department, I would beg leave to report that I have growing one of the finest Petunias in this part of the country. This plant has thirty-nine flower stalks over three feet high, and is at this writing covered with a mass of over one hundred perfect blooms, and has produced this season over fifteen hundred beautiful flowers. I have made an effort to give you some idea of the size and markings of some of the blooms, but have never yet found two that the markings were alike. It also produces pure white and plain bright crimson scarlet, the pencil markings is intended for the crimson—not a particle of blending of colors, every line perfect. The flowers are not all shaped alike, some of them the petals are reflexed and the sides cupped, giving it the appearance of a Lily, others not so much reflexed or cupped, but the petals over-lap each other. This Petunia is of the *grandiflora* variety and is beautifully scented. The plant produces considerable seed. I have seedlings in bloom that equal the original, but not all of them. Some have thick petals, in others the color is blended, while in others the color is not so intense. Have one in particular with four flower stalks, ten inches high, that has fifteen blooms as large as the largest one marked on the slip. Have another with yellowish-green foliage, and I think it will exceed anything in my collection.—J. C., Salem, Iowa.

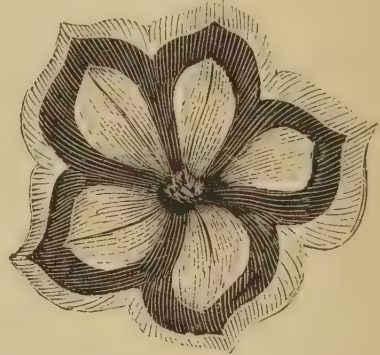
The Petunia is one of the very best plants we have, making charming beds of flowers in the summer, and filling a very honorable place in the winter garden. It seems hard to realize that the poor people who lived more than fifty years ago never saw a Petunia, and that when about that time a poor white variety was discovered in South America the world could be pleased with it; and it was much more than pleased when, in 1830, a purple Petunia was



found in Brazil. About eighteen years since we were somewhat astonished by the announcement that a double white Petunia had been produced. It was then only semi-double, but now we have the double of all colors, and as large as can be desired.

Sow the seed in the spring, in a cold-frame if possible; if not, in boxes or beds in the garden, and by the middle of May or first of June

plants will be ready to put out in the flowering beds, and will bloom abundantly until frost. Set the plants about eighteen inches apart. They come pretty true from seed, though not reliable in this respect, being inclined to sport. The Petunia as at present cultivated embraces three distinct classes. The *grandiflora* varieties make quite a strong, succulent growth, and the stems and leaves are sticky to the touch. These



bear a few very large, magnificent flowers, often from three to four inches across. They give but very few seeds. In this class we have a Fringed Petunia, new and unique. The Double Petunia gives no seed, and those that produce double flowers are obtained by fertilizing single flowers with the pollen of the double. The third class is the small flowered varieties. The plants are of a slender, wiry growth, but cover a good deal of ground. They bear an immense number of flowers, from early summer until frost, and seed freely in the open ground. A well filled circular bed, six feet in diameter, will display continually, without a day's intermission, thousands of flowers.

The Striped Petunias are most singularly marked, the markings sometimes almost forming perfect letters, which with a little imagination you can believe to be your initials, or those of some other person whom you think quite as much of. We give engravings of two, picked promiscuously from a bed.

GROWING BEETS.—Last season I had the most remarkable success in growing Beets for stock. I did not know the value of the Beet-root for stock before, nor did I know that it could be planted so late. A piece of ground that I thought perhaps I would put into Buckwheat, for it was low and I had not got it drained early enough for a spring crop, I put into Beets, and the result was beautiful!—yes, beautiful; for the even rows of parti-colored tops were handsome, and handsomer than some poor flower gardens I have seen this way. I forgot to say that I did not plant until about the tenth of June.—YOUNG FARMER.

WONDERFUL ORIENTAL FEATS.

A good many years ago WM. P. FOGG was in some way connected with the Agricultural Department of the Patent Office, as Agricultural Clerk, and gatherer of statistics, we believe. Indeed, MR. FOGG did some good work on the old *Genesee Farmer*. That was more than a quarter of a century ago. Since that time MR. FOGG has traveled the world over, and has written for a recent number of the *Cleveland Herald* the wonderful way in which a juggler made a Mango tree grow from seed :

"I was smoking my chibouk on the wide verandah of a bungalow, or Government inn, one day in northern India. It was in January, but the weather was intensely hot, and my *dakgharra*, with its rough, untrained horses, had stopped here for a mid-day rest. My Hindostanee servant, with an unpronounceable name, whom I had nicknamed "Handy-Andy" on account of certain unhandy ways, and a merry twinkle of the eye that indicated no lack of Hibernian humor, came up to the porch and with a salaam said, "Would sahib like to see conjurer make tricks?" "Yes, bring him on." I suspected the fellow was consulting his own fondness for amusement more than mine, but it was too hot to sleep, and I was ready for anything to kill time. A tall, fine-looking Hindoo, with a clear cut, intelligent face, and eyes that looked straight at you, with no indications of "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," next appeared on the scene. He was dressed in the ordinary long white robe of his race, with a rich cashmere shawl wound round his waste ; and his salutation and manners were respectful, without the least shade of servility. He was followed by attendants, carrying the various implements of his profession, which they spread out before him, and a dozen or two hangers-on of all ages grouped themselves at a respectful distance to enjoy the free show. The ground in front of the bungalow was paved with large, flat stones, and upon one of these the conjurer seated himself, curling his legs under him in oriental fashion, and asked in Hindostanee, "What special trick would sahib like to see?" At the same time he bared his arms, long, well formed, but not muscular, and untied his shawl to open his robe and show me that there was no concealed mechanism about his person. I told him through Handy Andy that I would like to have him perform the mango trick — which I had seen once before at Delhi without being able to penetrate its mysteries. He nodded assent, and taking a box about ten inches square, filled it with earth, and in it planted a mango nut about the size of

an English walnut, having first handed it to me for examination. He then made a frame-work, or tripod of three sticks, six or eight feet long and tied together at the top, placed it over the box, and covered the whole with a piece of white muslin. The only thing thus far that looked like charlatanism was a muttered incantation, rolling up his eyes, with outstretched palms, as if appealing for aid to some higher power.

Again seating himself not more than ten feet in front of the verandah, he went through the most astonishing performances of sleight-of-hand tricks.

In the meantime the mango tree was growing. Four times at intervals of ten or fifteen minutes, he raised the muslin cover to report progress. The first time a sprout three or four inches long appeared, at which he expressed satisfaction, and carefully watered it from a small sprinkling pot. The next time it was a foot high, and the leaves seemed just forming. The third time it was fully two feet in height, and appeared to be growing most vigorously. At the close of his other performances he tossed aside the enveloping cloth and tripod sticks, and lo ! there was a mango tree or bush about five feet high, with perfectly formed leaves and branches. He brought it to me, and I satisfied myself beyond a question that it was a real tree by breaking off a small branch, which I kept as a souvenir. He then pulled it up by the roots, to which was attached a nut partially decayed and covered with fibrous sprouts. He then emptied the earth from the box, to show that nothing was concealed within it.

When it is borne in mind that all this is done in broad daylight, with no person usually near him, the performers arms being bare to the shoulders, and seated upon a stone pavement, it is not surprising that the bystanders seemed filled with amazement not unmixed with awe. It was plain that they considered him in league with the evil spirit, or gifted with supernatural powers. Their faces would have been to me an interesting study if my own attention had not been so closely riveted on the conjurer.

Through Handy Andy I offered him twenty rupees if he would disclose to me the secret of the mango tree. I then doubled and trebled the offer, but he only shook his head, and I presume a thousand rupees would have been no temptation. I rewarded him with a generous "tip," and for the moment regretted that I was not a showman by profession. If I could have secured his services for an American engagement, there would have been "millions in it."

A good many of our friends would like to learn this kind of magic.

PROPAGATING LILIES.

Last spring, as I was digging among my Lily (*Candidum*) bulbs, I happened to break off one of the outside scales, which was left lying on the bed, partly covered with dirt. To-day, when I was weeding the bed, I noticed a tiny leaf springing up alongside this old withered scale, and on pulling it up I was much surprised to find several small bulbs, about the size of peas, starting from the buried edge of it. Now, I would like to know if this was merely a freak of this particular scale, or whether any other scale would act in like manner if so treated. Can other Lilies, *Excelsum*, for instance, be propagated in this way? If so, would you kindly give



some instructions in your MAGAZINE concerning the proper season and way to do it, and thus confer a favor on an old subscriber.—C. I., *Miscouche, P. E. I.*

It is not uncommon for new bulbs to be formed from Lily scales, indeed, this is a common and natural mode of propagation. If a Lily bulb is seriously injured before planting, so that it cannot recover and throw up a flower-stem and leaves, it will, when planted, do the very best it can for its owner, and at the base of many of the scales will be found bulblets, as shown in the engraving, where the bulb itself is demoralized and falling to pieces, while new bulblets, that are to continue the life of the plant, are shown by the letters A A. This



is one way in which Lilies are increased by nature, and without aid from the gardener; and indeed, often against his wishes, for he would generally prefer one sound bulb sending up its strong flower-stem soon to be covered with elegant flowers, than to have a dozen little bulbs that will not furnish a flower for several years. Florists take advantage of this habit to increase

their stock. In the spring the bulbs are broken up, and the scales sown in beds of mellow soil. These beds are then covered with moss, or shaded in some way, and little bulbs will form at the base of the scales, as shown in the small engraving. The bed must not be disturbed for at least two years, except to pull up the weeds.

HOLLYHOCKS AND GLADIOLUS.

A friend in New Orleans sends us, among other good words, some information regarding his success with Hollyhocks and Gladioli:—"Of the former two thirds threw up flower-stems. The flowers were all large and double, especially the bright pink ones, some of which were extra large and extra double, surrounded on the margin by a separate and distinct row of petals, giving the flower very much the appearance as if it were set in a paper holder with scalloped edges. The Gladioli were planted in groups of five or six, whereby the colors could better be remembered. They all bloomed finely. The colors were varied, very pretty, and pronounced the finest in the "garden district." The flowers were above medium, not exceedingly large, but of good size, and (what I have always preferred,) they were loose on the stem, bringing out the beauty of the flower, and not huddled up in a compact row."

White Candidum Lilies.—There is no purer Lily than the White Lily, at least I never saw any that I thought as pure and good. There is some difficulty in transplanting them, because while I have a large patch that thrive well and without any trouble, I have given several bulbs away, and none seemed to succeed very well. They just live, most of them, but don't make any progress. What is the matter?—LILIUM.

The matter, we presume, is that the Lilies you give away are transplanted at the wrong time, and not treated very well otherwise. The *Candidum* Lily commences to make its growth in September, and the very best time to transplant our White *Candidum* Lily is in August, soon after the flowers have faded. If removed when making a rapid growth, the check is, of course, quite severe. If planted in the spring the bulb should be placed in a cool place, if possible, and shaded from the sun, and cared for as one would for a tree or plant removed in a growing condition.

English Clove Pink.—*Sir*:—I have sent you a specimen of my Clove that I had sent from England two years ago. Can you beat it?—T. H., *Ithaca, Mich.*

Any of the dark purplish-red Pinks or Pico-tees are called Cloves, or Clove Pinks, because they have a very strong clove perfume. Those received were very good, but not much, if any, better than are grown from seed every year. Still, having been packed for several days, we could not well judge.

Chinese Wistaria.—I have a Wistaria vine that has been elegant all this summer. It flowered early in May and has had a good many flowers through June and July. Is not this strange?—IRENE.

The Wistaria often gives a few flowers pretty much through the season—sometimes in every summer month.

PEACE AND FLOWERS.

Our readers are, of course, well informed of the doings of the Congress of Nations, which has just concluded its proceedings, and saved Europe from the horrors of war. On the return of LORD BEACONSFIELD to England, he was tendered a grand ovation, both at Dover, on the arrival of the steamer, and at Charing Cross, the London railroad station. *The Telegraph*, speaking of the preparations for his reception, says, "The western platform of Charing Cross station, down which the carriage road runs, has been partitioned off, and while rows of raised seats skirt one side, banks of rare flowers rise on the other. Along the sides of the carriage way the platform is entirely hidden by flowers, and the walls of the station and entrance way are decorated with flags of nations who participated in the Congress, and clusters of national devices and emblems." War, we hope, has received its death blow. After the arbitration between England and America of the past few years, and the present arbitration of all of the principal nations of Europe, we think war will not have much respectability left, and will be confined to barbarians.

A Fine Caladium.—I have, for the last ten days, been intending to write you a letter, soundly berating you for attempts to deceive the public. In your FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN, in your description of the *Caladium esculentum*, it is evident that you intend your readers to think the leaves grow about one foot long, whereas you know that with decent care they would be at least two feet long. I planted one about the first of May, and it now has a dozen leaves that will average eighteen inches in length, the longest one is full two feet long and eighteen inches wide. Is there any good reason why you try to deceive people thus? I have some very strong looking Pepper plants, and I want to raise some extra fine peppers. If the plants require any trimming please tell me how to trim them.—F. W., *Nora, Marion Co., Indiana.*

The people are becoming such excellent cultivators that we shall have to enlarge our figures. They are moving much faster than we had dared to hope, so we shall have to tell what can be done with care and skill. The Pepper needs no pruning. Keep the soil mellow. If overloaded with fruit pick off a portion, if you desire large specimens. A rich soil and warm weather is what the Pepper likes.

Shell Flower.—While making a call at your grounds two or three years ago, I noticed what was to me a very curious plant. It was about eighteen inches high, shrubby and branching, and the leaves and bark almost as white as snow. If I remember correctly, it was labeled Shell Plant. I think a description of it would be interesting to the readers of your beautiful MAGAZINE.—G. W. S., *Leonidas, Mich.*

As soon as the plants become fully developed we will have drawings taken and publish a description with appropriate illustrations.

PLANTS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

Pansies require a cool moist atmosphere to do well. It is hardly possible to grow them in the house in summer.

The *Nymphaea odorata* should make a show of leaves in a few weeks after planting.

It is best to give the *Calla* a pretty large pot. One six to eight inches in diameter is quite small enough for an ordinary sized *Calla*.

If the *Chinese Primrose* is grown far from the glass the flowers will be paler than if flowered in a strong light, and this is particularly the case in warm weather.

If a *Rose* is potted and left exposed to the sun before the roots have formed, the plant will be very likely to show feebleness, and wilt. Place a newly potted plant in a cool place until the new roots fill the pot.

NYMPHÆA ODORATA IN CALIFORNIA.—We have sent a good many Water Lilies to California, and have had the most gratifying reports from them. MRS. MAILS, of Sutter Creek, writes, "My Pond Lily which you sent me two years ago bloomed this year for the first time, and you have no idea of the number that came to see it." Enclosed in the letter from MRS. M. was a slip from the *Amador Ledger*:

MRS. MAILS has growing in the rear of her store in Sutter Creek, a splendid specimen of Pond Lily. It is two years since she planted it, and it is now in bloom for the first time. We believe it is the only Lily of the kind in the county. MRS. M. and her daughter MARY, are accomplished horticulturists. A few feet of ground in the rear of the store, which was originally nothing but bed rock, they have, by dint of perseverance and patience, converted into a flower garden. They are none of your ragged, scarecrow flowers, either; but all of the choicest variety, brought to a high degree of perfection by cultivation. In their little patch they have flowers blooming, the like of which can be seen no where else in Amador county.

Red Spider, &c.—Please give me the name of the flowers sent by this mail in next MAGAZINE, or soon as convenient. The Red Spider is very abundant, from garret to cellar, inside and out. If it is dry air that causes them, how can we change the atmosphere out of doors? April was exceedingly wet—not a week of sunshine in the month. I begin to think Florists do not know any more about them than I do, for facts prove that it is neither fires or a dry atmosphere that produces them. The place is completely infested with them.—MRS. C., *Rindge, N. H.*

The white double flower is a *Narcissus*, probably *Albo pleno odorato*, but it is too much withered to tell for certain. It may be *Silver Crown*. The few broken petals of a *Pelargonium* we could not name. That florists don't know any too much is very certain, but that "red spider" must be a curious kind of an animal. The true red spider that troubles florists could not live ten minutes in that exceedingly wet New Hampshire April.

PINEAPPLE FLOWERS.

MR. VICK:—I want to know something about Pine-apples. Do they have any flowers, and if so, where does the flower grow? We have been talking about it in our club, and during vacation two of us are to write compositions about it, and have them ready at the opening in September.—WILL.

The Pineapple is not a single fruit, like the Peach or Plum, but a mass of fruits, every section or diamond formed division being an



independent fruit, bearing its own flower and seed. To make the matter plain, we had our artist draw a specimen, and directed him to make the points we designed to illustrate prominent. He has, however, rather overdone the matter. The flowers are not as large, comparatively, as shown in the engraving.

CHEAP POSTAGE FOR FOREIGNERS.—DEAR POSTAGE FOR AMERICANS.—The Members of Congress have gone home, and no one except, perhaps, the hotel-keepers of Washington, we presume, feel any regret. The last Congress found plenty of time to do lots of foolish things, and some exceedingly mean, but could find no time to amend our miserable postage laws. So American merchants pay SIXTEEN CENTS A POUND for carrying goods through the mails, while the same work is done for Canadians for FOUR CENTS A POUND. And yet, men in Congress have the impudence to stand on the floors of Congress and prate about *protection to American interests* while this state of things is allowed to exist from year to year, notwithstanding the most earnest remonstrances.

The *Dicentra* in California.—Please, Mr. VICK, say something about the *Dicentra* in the next number of your MAGAZINE. I know of so many besides myself that would like to cultivate it if they knew how to make it live through the winter.—D. H. P., Santa Cruz, Cal.

There can be no difficulty in making the *Dicentra* live through a California winter, we judge. It bears our severest winters without injury.

SAMPHIRE.

Our readers will recollect the remarks in the May and June numbers upon the Samphire. It seems a Farmer's Club had some discussion upon this subject, and one of the members referred the matter to us. We at once described the *Crithmum maritimum*, the Samphire of Europe, made classic by the poets. To this a correspondent replied that Samphire was abundant about the salt springs of Onondaga. This, however, is not the Rock Samphire of Europe, but the Marsh Samphire, *Salicornia herbacea*, found on the sea coast and near salt springs in both Europe and America.

A few weeks since we received from Mr. E. CHAPIN, of Syracuse, a nice package of these plants, from one of which our engraving was made, being about one-third natural size. It is a succulent little plant, somewhat of the texture of *Portulaca*, almost transparent, and exceedingly salt to the taste. It is gathered when young, and is much prized for pickles. From HENRY A. BRAMAN, of Phoenix, N. Y., we have received a very interesting account of this plant. Mr. D. P. PHELPS, of Syracuse, writes as follows:

"Here in Syracuse, on the sand and muck marsh lands around Onondaga lake, which are more or less saturated with brine from the salt springs or by leakage from the wooden aqueducts, which convey brine in all directions to the manufactories, Samphire grows in great abundance. It makes a very good pickle, if gathered and prepared properly when young and tender, and is much used for that purpose. Of course the gathering of it under these conditions of growth is not the "dreadful trade" it was in Shakspeare's time, on the cliffs of Dover."



Rose of Sharon.—Is there a Rose known as the Rose of Sharon? If so, will you give me a description of it, and oblige—P. B. E., Plainwell, Mich.

The flower commonly known as *Rose of Sharon* is not a Rose, but *Althaea frutex*, a very nice hardy shrub, bearing its flowers in the autumn. There are both double and single varieties, and the flowers look like Hollyhocks.

Cutting Tulip Flowers.—Are Tulips good for making up into bouquets? Will it harm the bulbs to cut the flowers?—M. P., Alberton, Ont.

Tulips will answer well for table and other large bouquets. Cutting will not injure, but rather benefit the bulbs. The formation of seed, however, injures the bulb far more than do the flowers.

TWIN FLOWERS.

JAS. VICK :—I send you by this mail a Dahlia grown by MRS. C. C. WAMSLEY, at the Polo Nursery, which I think is worthy of a notice in your MONTHLY. I presume it will be faded before it reaches you, but it was very beautiful when packed. It is a double Dahlia,—or perhaps more properly speaking, two Dahlias in one,



and, unlike most monstrosities, it was very perfect and very handsome. No one of those who saw it here ever saw such an one before.—J. W. CLINTON, *Polo, Ill.*

The flower referred to in the above note from the editor of the *Ogle County Press* came safely to hand, and we give our readers an engraving, showing its appearance. About the same time we also received a twin Pansy, from Mr. C. WHITE, of Crawfordsville, Indiana.

ROCHESTER AS SEEN BY A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—JOHN J. THOMAS, who is a perfect country gentleman, if ever there was one in the world, writes thus to the able and popular Albany Agricultural paper of that name :—

“The flower farm of JAMES VICK, in the eastern suburbs of the city, has many acres devoted exclusively to flowers, including a vast collection of bulbs. The immense beds of Pansies, at the time above mentioned, were kept in the richest bloom by the city water, which was constantly supplied through hose pipes, the fine rose terminus of which, held high on standards, showered the mist over the beds. By actual estimate, we found that the flowers in these beds of Pansies—which were of every imaginable shade and variegation—were literally numbered by millions.

Nothing does more than fine specimens of ornamental planting towards stimulating a correct taste in the details for carrying it out, and Rochester is largely indebted for its many fine places in the city and suburbs, to Messrs. ELLWANGER & BARRY, and to Mr. VICK in floriculture, as well as to others, by the examples which they have afforded, and by the plants and trees which they have introduced.”

• LAYERING CARNATIONS. — Carnations, and similar plants, we layer in July, or early in August. If the weather is hot, shade the plants for a few days.

THE PRIMROSE.

Will you please tell me about the Primrose,—I mean the light yellow one that I saw so abundant in England, in the spring? Why do we not have it here? Will it grow in our gardens, and if so, can seed or plants be procured? I thought it both beautiful and fragrant.—TRAVELER.

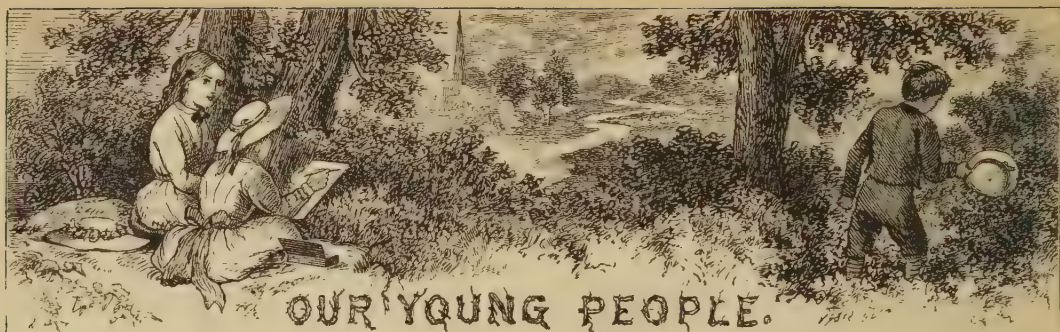
The Primrose is a native of England and of other parts of Europe. It grows in somewhat



shaded places, along the hedges and ditches, and on the borders of woods, or in thin woods or copses, as they are called, kept as shelter for game. The Primrose suffers from our northern winters, and perhaps would not endure a southern summer. Both seed and plants can be procured of American seedsmen and florists. It is known as *Primula vulgaris*, or the *Wild English Primrose*.

GOOD NAMES AND BAD PRACTICES.—The Good Book says, “A good name is better than riches,” but after all, there are some drawbacks even to so nice a thing as a good name. A gentleman of Elkhart, Indiana, writes that parties are putting up and selling a compound which they call *Vick's Floral Soap*, and ladies of Reading, Mass., write inquiring about the men who are in that neighborhood taking orders for our seeds. We know nothing of these transactions.—Speaking of a good name, why a little while ago a lady of Blantyre, Ontario, wrote that her little girls had given their prettiest calf our name. Only last week the Rev. Dr. SHAW, of this city, thought he did a pretty good thing, when he stated before company that spending the Sabbath out of town he was entertained by a family who had named their dog after us, and it was not a handsome dog, either. It was, doubtless, the handsomest one they had.

OUR COLORED PLATE. — It was stated in some of our early numbers that we should give twelve Colored Plates in the year, though in some numbers, perhaps, more than one, and in others none. About the time of Spring and Fall work, when we are anxious to give information in time for planting, we may continue to give two plates, as we did in February last, and omit one in some other number, as we do in this.



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

BOTANY FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

As a garden flower, the Poppy is, to most persons, suggestive of very pleasant associations; its silken textured, brilliant hued petals and curious seed-pods have been the source of fascination and amusement for many a sunny hour in childhood. In later years, when a great part of the floral world has been passed in review, and the eye and the mind trained to perceive and appreciate points of beauty in the different flowers with which fair mother earth bedecks herself, the fleeting beauty of the



Fig. 81. *Papaver Rhœas*.

Poppy still elicits the full measure of our early admiration. The shortness of the duration of the flower of the Poppy is used by BURNS to form the beautiful simile,

"But pleasures are like poppies spread;
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed."

If, now, we will look at our subject somewhat critically, it will be found to afford more of interest and gratification than it has yielded to the superficial glance. The illustration, *fig.*

81, is that of the common field Poppy of Europe, or, as it is there called, the Corn Poppy. The botanical name of the Poppy is *Papaver*, which is a very ancient name for this plant; the origin of the name is supposed to be from *papa*, pap or thick milk, for the reason that the juice that flows from the seed-vessel, when punctured, was formerly mixed with childrens' food to make them sleep.

The Poppy is an *herbaceous* plant, that is, it has no woody stem. There are a few root-leaves, or, as we must learn to call them, *radical* leaves, and an upright stem with a few small leaves placed alternately on it for a portion of its height, and above that it proceeds without leaves, (but furnished with short, bristly hairs,) as a flower-stem, single or branching into two or three parts, each bearing a flower at its summit. The calyx consists of only two sepals, which fall off as the flower opens, as shown at *fig. 82, b*. The sepals are situated on the receptacle free from the other parts of the flower, and overlap each other. As the petals increase in size in the bud they push the sepals up, separating them from the receptacle, and bearing them on their summit until they fall away when the flower fully expands. The petals are four in number, that is, twice the number of the sepals, and are situated on the receptacle free from the other parts, and are easily detached. The petals in the bud are crumpled and wrinkled, as indicated by the irregular dark lines in the diagram, *fig. 84*. The stamens are very numerous, and are situated on the receptacle below the ovary in several rows closely crowded together.

The pistil, it will be noticed, consists of an ovary and a number of stigmas arranged on the surface of a sort of cap that covers it, as seen in *fig. 82, a*; there is no narrow part or style. The pistil of the Poppy is really a compound organ. As previously explained and illustrated at *fig. 79*, the simple pistil is an infolded leaf or carpel, so a compound pistil is formed by the union of several simple carpellary leaves. The infolded edges of the carpels or carpellary

leaves form walls or divisions in the compound ovary. In the diagram, *fig. 84*, these divisions are shown by the white lines running toward the center, and to which the numerous ovules are attached. The number of these divisions in the Poppy is variable, but usually is from ten

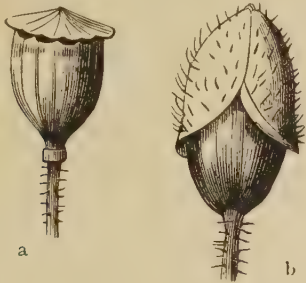


Fig. 82. a, Fruit of Poppy.—b, Flower-bud magnified.

to twelve, and is always the same as the number of rayed stigmas on the cap or disk. The crowning cap or disk in the bud and flower has its edge folded down over the ovary, as may be observed in the vertical section, *fig. 83*; but when the petals have fallen and the seeds ripen the disk expands its edge so that it stands out flat all around, as shown at *fig. 82, a*.

Between the ovary and the disk are little chinks or openings, through which the ripe seed fall. These openings are formed by the growth or extension of the interior division walls above the edge of the body of the ovary. The little space on the division walls opposite the chinks may be considered as the part answering to the style, or that part of the carpellary leaf called the style in a regularly formed pistil. The division walls bear on their summits the stig-



Fig. 83. Vertical Section of Poppy Flower.

mas, and, expanding horizontally, join and grow together in the form of the cap or disk already described. Thus we are able to trace the structure of this curiously formed pistil down to a simple leaf.

The diagram, *fig. 84*, shows the relative positions of the parts of the flower in the bud. The sepals, represented by the two heavy lines on the outside, overlap each other on one edge;

the four petals are shown by the four irregular lines, two of which appear to straddle over the ends of the two inner ones; the numerous stamens are represented by the small squares, and the ovules are seen attached to the radiating walls of the ovary. *Fig. 85* is a Poppy seed magnified, showing the appearance of net-work carving all over its surface. The engravings of this subject are very accurate, and will enable the reader to understand it clearly, but an especial assistance will be a flower or a seed vessel of the Poppy in the hand to refer to while carefully reading.

One marked peculiarity of the Poppy is the drooping flower bud; when the bud is expanding it erects itself, and the flower afterward retains the upright position.

Attention has been called to the fact that the number of petals in the Poppy is twice the

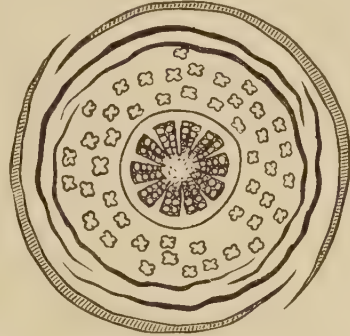


Fig. 84. Diagram of the Poppy.

number of the sepals, and now we desire to make the general statement that flowers are formed on a definite numerical plan, that is, a certain number of leaves, or transformed leaves, if the expression is allowed, form a floral whorl, and this number, or its multiple, is followed in all parts of the flower except when some parts are suppressed, or united, or changed in form. In the present case the two sepals completely surround the receptacle, and thus form a whorl; then we find two of the petals form a whorl, or completely surround the receptacle, and outside of these two more form another circle. The whole number of stamens consist of two stamens repeated a number of times, and the rayed stigmas should represent an exact number of twos, but in the case of organs growing together and adhering, as do the carpellary leaves in a compound pistil, the correct or normal number will not always appear. In the illustration given last month of the Magnolia, the calyx is composed of three sepals, and the corolla of six petals in two whorls of three petals each. In like man-



Fig. 85. Poppy Seed, (magnified.)

ner the student will find as he proceeds that whatever be the number upon which the flower-plan is formed it is observed in the various parts.

The common Corn Poppy of Europe, *Papaver Rhæas*, is the parent of the beautiful varieties of *Ranunculus* Poppies so much admired in cultivation; the color of the Corn Poppy is a deep red or scarlet, with a dark eye, but the double *Ranunculus*-flowered varieties are of numerous colors and shades.

The Opium Poppy, *Papaver somniferum*, is somewhat larger than our present subject, and the color is white; from this source have been derived by cultivation the varieties called Pæony-flowered—the flowers are double and of various colors.

From the importance which the production of Opium has assumed, the Poppy has acquired the position of one of the great or important plants of husbandry. It would be difficult to ascertain with any precision the amount of Opium produced in the world in any one year. British India, for the last few years, has derived an annual revenue from it of about forty million dollars. The value of the Opium imported into this country annually is about two millions of dollars. From these statistics, referring only to a part, it is evident that the whole annual production is very great and of immense value. The profitable cultivation of the Poppy for opium is confined to very warm climates. Although it would seem that the southern part of this country would be admirably suited to it, yet, either from the high cost of labor or some other cause, its production has never been attended with much profit. In Europe the Poppy is cultivated for the heads, which are used as a fomentation in some diseases; syrup of Poppies is also made from them, and in some parts a bland oil is manufactured from the seed and used for the same purposes as Olive Oil. The seeds are not narcotic, but are of a pleasant nut-like flavor, and in some countries are used as food.

The proper name of the Poppy family is *Papaveraceæ*—*Papaver*, the Poppy, and *aceæ*, meaning *like*—that is, like the Poppy. Some of the other kinds of plants that are like the Poppy and belong to the same family are the garden Celandine or Chelidonium. The yellow and milky acrid juice which is in all parts of the plant is used to destroy warts. The Argemone, or Prickly Poppy from Mexico, having bright yellow petals, is cultivated as a handsome garden annual—there are varieties with white and carmine and yellow flowers, all very showy. *Eschscholtzia Californica* is another annual plant cultivated for its bright yellow flowers. A number of varieties have been pro-

duced from it with petals of various shades of yellow and orange. One sort is white, and another a light pink. The well-known Blood-Root, *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, is a member of this family; and another is the Bocconia, cultivated more for its large foliage than for its panicles of small white flowers. The Glaucium or Horned Poppy, familiar to some as a cultivated plant, also belongs to the family.

CAT-BIRDS AND BARN SWALLOWS.

Our Cat-birds lay four eggs, of a deep green color, and they build a deeper nest than the Robin, but not so compact. And our Barn Swallows are blue-black, with chestnut colored belly, breast and throat. The chestnut color is deeper on the throat, and their tails are bordered with white. In fact, they are very brilliant birds when seen near by, but it is difficult to get near them, and on the wing they look black. I saw them getting mud for their nests this spring and was not three feet distant from them, so I had a good opportunity for close inspection. They paid no more attention to me than if I had been a stick or a stone. I was much interested in their movements, and thought how wonderful is instinct! They first went to a strawberry patch and picked up a few straws, and these they dipped in the mud; sometimes they carried mud alone by the hour. I was quite fascinated.—E. A. M.

GOOD ROADS.—Good roads facilitate the attendance of public worship, bring lectures and public meetings within easy access, favor frequent mails, and thus are virtually civilizers and educators.—J. J. THOMAS.

Our roads have improved very much. Those who are men and women now can remember the muddy roads of spring that troubled them when boys and girls. Once, when riding in a stage in Canada, back of Woodstock, we had all to get out in the mud, and each armed with a rail, pry the stage out of a deep rut. When the passengers complained, the driver said that was nothing, for a few years before a hat was discovered in the road, and when a passenger got out to obtain the hat a man was found below it, and when the man, with much difficulty, was secured, he coolly invited the passengers to help his horse out. Horse, man and hat having all sunk in the slough.

ERROR.—The last five lines on page 219 of July number should read —“double flowers of the Cherry are formed by the stamens changing into petals, and this is the way all double flowers are produced. In some cases the pistils also change into petals, but in the double Cherry the change is greater.”

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY.

CHAPTER V.

The best of times will have an ending; and so the day came when I must return to the city, and, I assure you, the prospect of leaving so much healthful enjoyment,—such as can only be found in the woods and meadows,—for the hurry-scurry, rattle and bang, dust and smoke of a crowded city, was by no means a source of comfort to me during the last few days of my sojourn with Uncle George; and I know that Auntie did not like the thought of parting so soon with her “wee bit of city consequence,” as she sometimes called me. Besides, I had by this time made the acquaintance of all the boys (and some of the girls, too,) and so we were just in splendid shape for fishing excursions, pic-nics, berry pickings, etc., when I had to bid adieu to everybody and everything. Wasn’t it awful?

And that is about the way I talked it over to Uncle. He waited patiently till I had finished my lamentation, and then quietly remarked, “Such is life, Johnny, such is life; I no sooner get settled and acquainted on a circuit than it is time to pull up stakes and move to another; our friendships are scarcely formed, ere they are severed. And so it is the world over; men toil all their lives to earn a competency, and no sooner do they get ready to live and enjoy life, as they think, than they die. Doubtless such men have mistaken the true object of life, else a kind Providence would have given them that for which they had toiled so earnestly; for in the operation of Nature’s laws there is a unity and completeness that is not attained in such a course.”—

And thus Uncle George went into Theology and Metaphysics, while Auntie went into her crochet work, and I went into the land of nod. But to day, as I look back over the years that have intervened I can see the good old man, a living embodiment of simple, earnest piety; and his kindly words revive again in my soul, fraught with meaning and full of blessing. I am also reminded of the scripture he so often quoted for the encouragement of others, “Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days;” and “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.”

In turning over the leaves of a small note book which I carried during that visit, I find the old orchard contained no less than eight nests of the Robin, four of the Chipping Sparrow, and one each of the Cat-bird, Cedar-bird,

Yellow-bird, Phoebe, Oriole, Song Sparrow, and ruby-throated Humming-bird, that divided my attention daily, to say nothing of the visits of other birds whose nesting places were not in the immediate neighborhood.

Nor will I ever forget the memorable morning of my departure. Uncle had already taken his seat; I had kissed Auntie good bye, and then standing up in the buggy, with head uncovered, I delivered—with more feeling than I thought for—Mr. HAMILTON’S

ADIEU TO THE BIRDS.

ADIEU, cheerful Swallows; again must you go
Where the tropics are blooming in unfading glow?
Then, birds, as you leave us, permit me to say,
Success to your journey, success all the way;
Adieu, cheerful Swallows, adieu.

Adieu, happy Robins; again must you fly,
And seek in the south-land a more genial sky?
Again must you leave the dear tree-top and nest,
Where you sung all the summer with such joyful zest?
Adieu, happy Robins, adieu.

Adieu, sprightly Blue-birds; and now must you turn
From hill-sides and pastures, the brake and the fern?
Must you, too, be leaving our bright summer home,
Ere the winds and the storms of the equinox come?
Adieu, sprightly Blue-birds, adieu.

Adieu, Bob O’Lincoln; and, too, must you
Now turn from our meadows, and we say adieu?
How much we shall miss thee, thou musical rover,
From all the old meadows, the daises and clover;
Adieu, Bob O’Lincoln, adieu.

Adieu now, gay Sparrows and Wrens; must you all
Forsake us so soon at the coming of “Fall?”
O, must you away at the very first chill,
And leave us no bird-songs, not one little trill?
Now, Sparrows and Wrens, all adieu.

But, O, all ye Birds, come back with the spring;
Again round our homes, chirp, frolic and sing;
I may be gone, but others will stay,
And welcome you back with April and May!
Adieu, all ye Birds, now adieu.

On resuming my seat I couldn’t see things very clearly, and I tried to swallow something that would keep coming up in my throat; as for Uncle, he coughed some, and blew his nose a good deal. Finally, at the crack of the whip, Nellie started off at a lively pace towards the depot; and so ended my summer’s vacation in the country.

EARLY CABBAGES.—Last October I sowed some early Cabbage seed, because I read in one of your books that this was the way to have Cabbage very early in the spring. Early in December I put some boards around the bed, making a kind of box, and for a cover for the box I put evergreen boughs. Very early in the spring I set out the plants, and never before saw Cabbage so early and so good. In June I had splendid Cabbage. This was my first attempt at anything of the kind.—CYGNET.

AUTUMN CATALOGUE OF BULBS.—*Vick's Illustrated Catalogue and Floral Guide* is now published twice a year, the 1st of December, and the 15th of August. The August number contains descriptions of the best *Hyacinths*, *Tulips*, *Lilies*, *Pæonies*, and all hardy bulbs and plants suitable for planting in the garden in the fall. Also descriptions of all plants suitable for winter culture in the house, with the best modes of treatment, and instructions for watering, ventilation, etc. Scores of illustrations. All for the postage, a two cent stamp. Those who wish a good show of bulbs in their gardens in the spring, or good flowers in their houses in the winter, must prepare for them in the autumn.

OUR PUBLICATIONS.—Besides this MAGAZINE we publish VICK'S FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN, an elegant work, with lots of illustrations, and six beautiful colored plates—five of Flowers and one of Vegetables. It is a book of 170 pages. Price 50 cents in paper covers, \$1.00 bound in cloth. An *Illustrated Catalogue*, with hundreds of engravings, and 70 pages of reading; sent to all who apply, enclosing a two or three cent stamp for postage.

CLUBS.—Additions of one or more can be made to clubs at any time, at club rates. Those who have paid \$1.25 can form a club of four more, and have the benefit of club rates for all, by sending \$3.75 more. Club subscribers are not confined to one post-office. We will send the MAGAZINE anywhere in the world.

LOST NUMBERS.—If any number fails to arrive please notify us by Postal Card. Occasional losses in the mails seem unavoidable. We will supply all lost numbers promptly, without any charge.

TO OFFICERS OF STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.—Please notify us at once if you accept our offer of Premiums for Flowers, and also make arrangements to let the people know of our prizes by publishing them in the papers, and your premium lists. Members should see that officers do their duty in this respect. Much disappointment resulted last season from neglect of this simple matter. Many did not learn of these prizes until they were on the Fair Ground.

BACK NUMBERS.—We can furnish full sets of the MAGAZINE for the year. New subscribers, therefore, can commence with the January number.

EXTRA COPIES.—We will supply our subscribers with extra copies of any number for ten cents each.

VICK'S FLORAL PREMIUMS.

FOR AMATEURS ONLY.

To encourage the culture of Flowers among the people, and particularly among the people who love them and grow them for love alone, I offer **\$40.00 in Cash** for the **Best Show of Flowers** at each and every State Fair in America.

Officers will please announce this Offer in their Premium Lists, and, if possible, still earlier in the Newspapers, so that all may have an opportunity to prepare for the competition.

I authorize the officers of every State and Territorial Agricultural Society in the United States (and where there are two prominent Societies in one State, both,) and the Provinces of Canada, to offer, in my behalf, the following premiums:



For Best Collection of Cut Flowers, . .	\$20 00
Second Best “ “ . . .	10 00
Third Best “ “ . . .	5 00
Fourth Best “ “ . . .	Floral Chromo.

The offer is made to amateurs only, and the flowers to be exhibited at the usual Annual Fairs. The awards to be made by the regular Judges, or by any committee appointed for the purpose. When only one collection is exhibited, the Judges may award the first or any other premium, according to merit, but the exhibition must be a creditable one, and if not so, in the opinion of the Judges, no premium to be awarded. The flowers not to be made up in bouquets, but exhibited separate and named, the object being to award the premiums to the flowers, and not for tasteful arrangement. Also,

For the Best Ornamental Floral Work,
(either Bouquet or Floral Ornament,) . . . \$5 00

I shall not consider the offer accepted by any Society, unless published in the regular Premium List, so that all may have an opportunity to compete. The Officers of Societies will please see that **DISINTERESTED** and **COMPETENT** JUDGES are appointed.

We also authorize the Officers of EVERY COUNTY SOCIETY in America to offer one of our **FLORAL CHROMOS** for best exhibition of Cut Flowers.

 We make no conditions regarding where seed is purchased, as many have supposed, but must insist that committees award the prizes fairly to **Amateurs**, and not to **professional Gardeners**, or **Gardeners at Gentlemen's Establishments**. 

Officers of Agricultural Societies who accept this offer and give it publicity in the papers and their Premium Lists, will please notify us, and we will publish the fact in our columns. Those from whom we hear nothing we shall consider as having declined to take advantage of our Premiums.



Lithographies Chromo Co. of Rochester N.Y.

PAINTED FOR VICKS MONTHLY.

GROUP OF HONEYSUCKLES.